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Undead Seeks Warmth - WN Chapter 01-34

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Chapter 1-4

Undead Seeks Warmth – Chapter 1-4

by Shinsori · May 6, 2016

Chapter 1

There are three things that I don't understand.

The first being, how did I die?
I know that I'm a dead person. My face reflected in the puddle of water is lifeless, also, it is ice-cold when touched.
Yes, I'm a corpse. But when, why or where did I die?
It's almost as there's a mist in my head, I'm not able to remember anything.

The second is, my location.
Wall, floor, ceiling, all of those made those made a stone passage.
No matter where I go, the same scenery follows everywhere, it surely deserves to be called a『Labyrinth』.
The place where I stand, my body does not remember at all.
Why am I in such a place?

…… No. More than that.
Why have I died, why can't I remember anything, such things are trivial.
The most important thing is, why.
Why.

Why——a dead person like me, can move around?
With a heart that does not move, a cold brain, the answer never appeared.

Chapter 2

I walk, walk, walk.
A stone passage that I do not recognize, I continue walking endlessly.

From the shoeless feet, footsteps with pateripateri sounds.
The clothes are tattered here and there. At least, as far as my memory goes, I don't remember wearing such clothes.
Until a while ago, I should have been an ordinary high school student.
Then how did this happen?
I don't understand, I can't understand.
The only thing I understand is, that I'm『Cold』.
Cold, so unbearably cold.
Anything is fine, anything is fine as long as it warms this body up.
For that one feeling, I keep walking on the dim stone road with no end.

——I heard a sound other than that of my own feet, I think it's about an hour after I started walking.
I turn at many corners, I choose a crossroad, I kept walking like that. This is the first change since I started walking.
Kotsuri. The firm sound that I heard from the other side of the darkness.
Someone is there. Or something.
I who thought that ran towards the sound.
The movements of the body which became cold were dull compared to when I was alive. Nevertheless, I ran.
Then I turn at one corner.

There it was.
The height approximately 180 centimeters, slightly higher than myself?
A rusty sword in its hand. Traces of blood still awfully vivid.
My face unconsciously twitched. That's absurd, even though I'm a corpse I thought.
Because there it was the existence that I thought exist only in games.
Just fragments of flesh left, only bones, yet it obviously moves.

A『Skeleton』that monster looks at me with hollow eye sockets.
Kakakaka, it shook its lower jaw and laughed.

While I stare at the laughing skeleton blankly, suddenly a strange feeling made it to my head.
The information about the skeleton in front of me flows into my head without

selfishly.
The feeling disappears in few seconds, I understood what kind of existence this skeleton is.
『A low-class Skeleton Soldier』(Lesser Skeleton). Magical power dwells in the bones of a dead person, it turned in a monster that is able to move.
Almost no intelligence, it will attack anything that moves indiscriminately. It is possible to place it under control with magic.
…… Not a laughable story. With this information, I somehow understood what kind of place this is.
Apparently, at some time, without realizing I died and somehow came to a different world.
Well, let's think about it later.
For now, let's avoid the sword that guy raised.
I immediately jumped back, the Lesser Skeleton swung its sword down with all its might.
The movement is dull. It's slower than me who is a corpse.
The Skeleton body shakes katakata, it approached me while raising its sword in order to cut me once again.
However, it's impossible to cut me.
When the information about the skeleton flowed inside me, I also found out about my body to some extent.
It seems that I became『Immortal』(Undead).
The human who is supposed to be dead, but is not. A monster, just like the Skeleton.
I'm lucky to be immortal, but when cut, the blood flows and above all the body is dead so it can't be healed naturally.
In other words, I don't feel pain when cut, as everyone already guessed a zombie.
Even though I'm already completely dead, I absolutely refuse to be cut down.
There is a mountain of things I want to know, but this is not the right time for that.
Anyway, if I don't do something about this Skeleton, my body will be eternally damaged.
The choice is between fighting and running away…

Naturally I ran away.
After all, Skeleton is slow.

…… But, this is troubling.
I who has escaped from the Skeleton safely, sit in a suitable place and think.
In all likelihood, this is a different world. For some reason, I died and became a monster.
To be frank, it's incomprehensible. Perhaps because I became an undead, I don't panic in the current situation, my reasoning doesn't falter.
Why did I have a detailed understanding about the Skeleton from a while ago just by seeing it?
In the first place, why was it at such place?
Though I think a lot, there is too little information.
Foremost, it's too cold. Even though I run and move, the body doesn't warm up at all.
I don't feel any pain, why do I feel only cold so clearly?
There's a limit to unkindness, I might as well don't feel the coldness.
But it can't be helped even if I complain. In the first place, there is no one to complain to.

Even if I complain, the situation won't turn to better, I decided to move for now.
I overwhelmingly lack information. I don't have an idea how large this area is, it's probable that exploring every nook and corner is needed.
There may be more things similar to that Skeleton. If I find a different kind, I may get more information, I may understand more then.
The method of warming my body up——also what kind of place this is.

Chapter 3

One week has passed.
During that time, I was able to somehow understand this world.

This a dungeon called『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』.
Though I can't understand it clearly because I haven't arrived at the entrance yet, it seems that immortal monsters like me and gloomy monsters like skeletons

gather in this place filled with darkness willingly.
I have encountered several monsters such as『Departed Soul』(Ghost), 『Scavenger』(Dust Worm) and『Lower Devil』(Lesser Evil).
Anyway, I'd rather meet something like『Night Demon』(Succubus). A nature of sorrowful man. It seems that man is a stupid creature even if dead.
However, if I'm about to face such a monster, I would turn around and run away, I don't want to meet a strong one.
It's because these guys are capable of using a cheat like magic, so please forgive me for running away.
Also in that one week, the most important thing on my list was securing warmth.
This obviously didn't go well.
I mean, not talking about the sun, there is no fire either. The monsters are fundamentally afraid of fire, there is no way for me to get warm.
By the way, food is unnecessary. It's natural since I'm dead.
It is possible that I'm unconsciously feeding on the dungeon's miasma or something.
Ah, I forgot something important.
It's better to say that I didn't forget, but rather that I didn't realize.

Name——What is my name?

This famous king of inventors Edison, was so absorbed in thinking, that he completely forgot about all other things.
According to a legend, when he was in Government office to process formalities, he was asked about his name by the staff, he was thinking about something else, and replied with「I don't know」.
Ah well, let's put such things aside. I wonder what my name is?
To notice only after a week has passed. Even though there is no person to self-introduce to, I am such a fool.
However, I can't remember at all. Even the initials don't come out.
I burst out laughing. No, this is no laughing matter.
To forget my own name, isn't this a symptom of a younger-onset Alzheimer's?
Not knowing one's name feels really bad.

However, this sense of nothing in me goes beyond nothingness…

I was troubled approximately for two hours, I decided to put this matter on hold for now.
It's not like I will be worried about introductions anytime soon.

Chapter 4

It has been 20 days since I fell in this situation.
I may freeze eventually.
The wall, ceiling and the floor are made from stone, there is no light. The temperature is below the freezing point.
As an undead I don't have any senses, just the sense of coldness is felt thoroughly.
Because I can't generate any warmth, the coldness keeps increasing. As I breathe in the cold air and then breath out, the coldness is still the same.
I need a fire, a fire. Yesterday, I came across a big black skink lizard『Large Black Lizard』(Black Salamander), I thought he would breathe fire, but that bastard spits out a chilly air.
That would kill me. Nah, I'm already dead.
I fled in haste, I will beat that guy eventually. I made up my mind.
Now, the heat. I need heat.
I already felt like there is absolutely no fire in this labyrinth.
Therefore, I was searching for the exit past few days, but I can't find it for some reason.

Is this bullying? Bullying this poor me who is searching for warmth?

Sensei! There is a bully in the class! I think everyone should get along well!

I yell like this, but it's in vain.
Nobody will help me, in the first place there is nobody who could understand my words, that leaves me only with moving forward.
The floor is cold~ I would like shoes at least~ I complain in my mind while tottering forward.

The twentieth day. In other words, since I arrived in this world, I've met a human.

There are 3 humans. 1 man and two women.
All members are about 17 years old…… Slightly younger than me.
The man is leading at front with a torch gets surprised at my sudden appearance.
Of course, he got surprised. Because I got surprised as well.
The man has a sword on his waist, the two women in the back have a staff and a bow respectively, are these the『Adventurers』I wonder?
This labyrinth is dominated by monsters. For there to be things from RPG's like guilds and adventurers would not be strange at all.
The adventure-ish man talks to the people beside him.
I see, even though this is a different world they communicate with talking, I understand that. However, I still don't understand why the information about the monsters flow into me when I look at them, but well that doesn't matter.
Torch! That is a torch sensei.
These guys brought me my long-awaited fire! I'm in need of something warm!
What a luck, what a good fortune. After 20 days of suffering, I have finally been rewarded.

Fortunately, it looks like these guys didn't notice that I'm an undead.
They can't see my white as a paper complexion with no blood circulation. Unlike me who is undead they don't have a good vision in darkness, In such darkness one torch is not enough.
Because I haven't suffered any injury, my body looks beautiful. The clothes are ragged, though.
Therefore, I approached these completely careless fellows and said.

Hey, give me the torch!

Ah…… I thought I would die yesterday. Though I'm already dead.
If I have to summarize, when I demanded the torch yesterday with smiling face, the girl with the staff among the three people noticed that I'm an undead.
It seems that child wasn't a『Witch』(Magician), but『Shinto Priestess』(Sister). I understood after the information come directly to my head.
The moment that staff would be pointed towards me, I would be reduced to ashes. I had a vision like that.
Certainly, if I consider the information gathered so far, against the existences belonging to the darkness element, the Shinto Priest's purification is suitable.

Of course, I fled at full speed.
When there’s a life, there’s a hope, though I’m dead.

Therefore, the acquisition of warmth has failed again.
However, these adventurers, no matter that I’m undead to chase after me so obstinately.
I complain, this is racism. These guys, just because the dead don’t have human rights!
…… Well, if I was in an opposite situation, I would do the same thing, a walking corpse is a perfect description of a monster.
Even if I speak ill of them, it can’t be helped, un. If I see you again, I will send you flying, though.
Even though if a human being would go missing and someone may grief, but unfortunately my mind is very cold because of all the coldness. There are no further thoughts.
Is it inevitable? It became inevitable. If I could revive I would like to return to my original world, but it can’t be done in present conditions.

More than anything, fire.
Let’s look for those fellows. I will snatch the torch if I see a change.
Incidentally, those guys probably know where the exit is.
Because of that, I’m going to look for those adventurers from yesterday.
…… It would be nice if they still were in this area, though.

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Chapter 5-8

Undead Seeks Warmth – Chapter 5-8

by Shinsori · Published May 6, 2016 · Updated June 7, 2016

Chapter 5

I walk sneakily along the labyrinth's wall, I going to the direction the adventurers hopefully went.
I don't know yet if all monsters here in『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』are fundamentally cold, but it seems that my body is considerably susceptible to heat for some reason.
Before meeting the adventures yesterday, I felt discomfort on my skin, but because the impact of meeting a person with a torch was so high, I forgot about it.
Perhaps all of my senses have been switched to heat perception. The bone-piercing coldness may seem too much as a side effect, but for now, I'm grateful.
I know. I know the whereabouts of the adventurers. It seems that because they chased me for quite a while, they decided to stay overnight in the labyrinth.
If I remember correctly, at the end of this passage there is an open wide hall. If a monster warding magic is set up, that place becomes a perfect camp site. It's cold, though.
I'm following the tracks, getting near. From what I saw yesterday, it didn't look like they bring enough water and food with them. They are surely heading towards the exit.
If I can reach the exit, I could finally leave this labyrinth. I want to quickly get out and sunbathe on a hot beach.
With a hope of breaking out, I suppress my emotions of wanting to skip from happiness and stealthily walk along the wall.
According to the information in my brain, the girl with the bow is『Bow Hunter』(Archer).
I as an undead doesn't have a presence, but it would be troublesome if they

notice me by sound.
This matter decided my fate, you can never be too careful.
Because the stone flooring amplifies the sound, I was thankful for being bare footed.

As the time passes, I slowly approach the heat from the adventurers.
But my efforts ended in a vain.
…… Because when I arrived at the hall, only a sea of blood was left there.

——This is bad, is what I thought.
A terrible sight appeared before my eyes.
I somehow survived here——It's funny that those words come from an undead——but, this is an environment where one step wrong and I end up in another monster's belly

The only reason I'm still uninjured is because I'm an undead who doesn't tire out, doesn't need a food and water to survive.
I look at the bloody scenery several times, there are no problems.
The problem is——a stupidly large and sharp claw marks on the walls.
Certainly, the adventurers from yesterday were torn to pieces.
I can't recognize who is who anymore. Being an undead has one downfall, I don't have a sense of smell, but I can smell the scent of blood in this whole area.
I've seen such terrible sight only once before.
I have seen a similar hall to this one before, in that hall, there was a flock of Low-Grade Demons slaughtered in the same way.
Although they are Low Grade, they are still demons. Monsters here are located according to their ability and determines if you are the hunter or being hunted.

And something that can very easily hunt a colony of demons is in this labyrinth.
The blood flowing from the remains is still warm. Perhaps it's still near.
Pardon me, but I don't want to come across such thing. In addition, monsters will gather here immediately because of the scent of blood.
To think that blood is the first warm thing I can get my hands on. While thinking such, I turn around in order to get away from this labyrinth's apex predator.

From the three adventurers, only the girl『Bow Hunter』(Archer) is left without a big wound.
I noticed that she just fainted.

I walk cautiously in the passage while carrying a brown-haired girl on my back. It looks like there are no monsters nearby. If I search for the heat, aside from the dead like me, I can see the signs of life in the vicinity.
Of course, I'm still not able to detect monsters from the same kind, like『Skeleton Soldier』(Skeleton) or『Rotting Corpse』(Zombie), but there is no place to hide from them in the first place.
By the way, a zombie is a parasite that infests a corpse, it's a fake version of me. There are only a few in this labyrinth. They are grotesque, not a pretty sight to see.

Oh well, such thing doesn't matter, though. Now, I must leave as fast as possible.
…… Still, why from the three only this child has survived?
The other two were torn to pieces. Is the predator's intelligence low, or is there any other reason, I can think of many things, but there is too little information.
I don't even know the form of the predator. Judging from the walls and the wounds of the victims, it was a monster with『Sharp Claws』without a doubt.
No, could it also be done with magic? Either way, it's extremely troubling.
Undead's body is certainly suitable for battle, but I don't want to be wounded, moreover I don't feel like winning against something that could slaughter a colony of demons.
Above all, getting information takes the priority. For that sole reason, I carry a girl who I have no obligation to help.
She will have some information about the predator, if it turns out well, she may also know where the exit is.
As there is a chance of being attacked after she wakes up, I left her weapon back in the hall. I won't lose in a hand to hand combat with a human girl.
Truthfully, bringing a weapon may have been a good thing, but I can't use neither a bow nor magic, I could have somehow managed the sword from the male adventurer, but it was broken at the base, rendering it useless.
Particularly the clothes were a big disappointment. I want to graduate from rags. Though the shoes were in a wearable condition, the size didn't fit at all.
It seems nothing will change for a while. Sadly.
But asking for too much is irresponsible, there's no other choice but to endure.
For the time being, I decided to take a refuge in a relatively safe zone of this

labyrinth.
After thinking it through, I quicken my walking pace and go towards a place with a few creatures.

…… Iya.
To think that human body is so warm.
I'm glad I saved you.

Chapter 6

Although I struggle to find an exit, I came to reasonably understand the geography of this place after walking around for 20 days.
I'm now in a spacious room in which only a few monsters reside. It's a place I often use as a base when I want to rest. I gently lower down the girl on the ground.
Systematic breathing sounds and good face complexion. There are cuts and scratches here and there on her body, but it doesn't seem serious.
It would be scary if some bacteria entered the wound, I don't have any antiseptics on me so I tear off the sleeve of my clothes and roll it around the wound as a substitute for a bandage.
Even though it's tattered, I've become sleeveless on one side. It does not make much difference so all is good.
I must somehow obtain decent looking clothes soon……

Because it would be too difficult for a flesh and blood human being to sleep on the stone floor directly, I at least put the girl's head on my lap and wait for her to wake up.
In the meanwhile my attention is firmly distributed to the surroundings, I don't forget to pay close attention to whether monsters are getting close.
But to be honest, there is a much bigger problem than monsters.
After this child wakes up, how can I avoid getting attacked……?

…… About 4 hours passed, no probably 5 or more.
Heartbeat stopped, lack of the sense of hunger, there is no sleepiness or fatigue, my biological clock doesn't function at all.
As a matter of fact after dying, in other words since the day I started wandering around the labyrinth, the number of days that has passed is vague. I mean, you

can’t see outside from this labyrinth.
Returning to the topic, well, a good amount of time has passed, yet there is no sign of the girl waking up.
But she occasionally seems troubled since a little while ago, I guess she’s having a nightmare.
Dreams occur in REM stage of sleep. It seems she will wake up soon.
…… Now then, what should I do?
When this child wakes up and her consciousness becomes clear, she will attack me 9 out of 10 times.
As one would expect, the body of an undead isn’t so weak that it would fall behind to the barehanded young girl.
In order to get information smoothly from her, and most importantly.
I want to talk with her. I want to communicate.
Since I came to this world, the number of days that passed is certainly more than I can count on my hands.
However during this time, I have not met a creature I could connect to with words.
No matter how much dead I am, no matter how cold my brain gets, my nature won’t change.
While I was alive, I was just a normal 3rd-year high school student. All I worried about were the exams and the girl I was interested in.
Such honest person like me was left alone in this cold labyrinth where even the light can’t reach.
It’s impossible to keep enduring like this. I kept making fun of myself to deceive myself however, I’m at my limit.
Therefore, I was glad when I first met them. (Shin: Adventurers)
No, I can’t endure the coldness more than the loneliness.
Still, I was happy.
Therefore to me, it’s not possible to hold down this girl with force.
However, I don’t think it won’t end without me being attacked.
No matter how hard I think, I can’t find a solution.
Meanwhile, she woke up at last.

…… Ah, violent so violent.
When the girl woke up, she looked around the room absentmindedly, then when

her eyes met mine, she screamed and hit me.
So I somehow kept dodging her who remained in a state of confusion, I attempted to persuade her that I'm not hostile, but this is another difficult struggle.
No matter what, her companions were slaughtered right before her eyes. Her fists and legs were raining down on me for good 30 minutes.
But as expected, after a while she became considerably fatigued, she became quiet when the fatigue hit her.
I keep a slight distance from her to not frighten her, I tried to converse.
The result well, you can say it went smoothly.
Because I'm undead she never completely let her guard off, but at least I got an answer to my question.
She introduced herself as Merlin. According to her, this labyrinth is located in a country called Shardia and is under that country's adventure guild jurisdiction.
Although it seems that rookie adventurers have 1 years to pass this labyrinth, the two that died apparently came with her from the same village and diligently tried to pass this labyrinth.
From the contents of the story, it seems that this labyrinth『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』acts like a wall that separates the wannabes from the full-fledged adventurers.
Certainly this place is indiscriminately wide and cold, those with a living body that enters must be strong willed. Because even I, a dead person has a strong will.
Because they had steady performance as adventurers for a year and gained some confidence, they thought it was time for them to enter the『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』and triumphantly return.
But they encountered a strange intelligent undead that could talk…… Is it me?
They decided to chase after me. After losing the sight of me they wasted the whole day by chasing me, so they decided to stay overnight.
And then——they, unfortunately, came across『Predator』, which caused that terrible scene.
When I asked what monster it was, Merlin remembered only that it was a very large beast.
She fainted because of the shock of her companions being killed in no time.

The『Predator』probably left her alive to become a bait. The remains that were left behind had traces of being eaten. The beast doesn't hunt more than it needs. It seems two people were enough to fully feed it.
Merlin burst into tears when speaking about this.
Because I heard what I wanted to hear, I will now let her cry until she is satisfied.

Chapter 7

I take Merlin along and walk through the labyrinth.
After lots of crying, she calmed down a little and she treated me with a gentler attitude.
After talking about myself for a bit, I apologized for surprising her when we first met.
Also, If I didn't make a contact with them, the 3 people may not have stayed overnight in the labyrinth, they could have left.

However, she said with brave heart「Since I became an adventurer, I knew something like that could happen」, she didn't blame me.
I who was chased around the labyrinth only because I sought warmth, was apologized to instead.
However, after all, my mind is not settled. Therefore, I suggested to accompanying Merlin who doesn't have a weapon to the exit.
Although I say that, because I don't know where the exit is, I leave the guidance to her.

And thus, the two people walk around.
Merlin recovered a little from the shock of losing her companions and chatted with me while walking.
Those two people were her childhood friends, it seems the three of them were always together since they were young.
From her childhood memories to recent events, she talked about various things.
Though the communication was very enjoyable to me, it was pitiful at the same time.
However, if she can feel a little better by talking, I will lend her an ear.
She reported「The exit is close」soon after.
My legs suddenly stopped and I looked behind.

…… This is.

It’s there. On the other side of the darkness.
An existence with powerful life force. It’s just around the corner.

The moment I sense that『Existence』, the chillness I felt increased by several times.
It’s already near us. Merlin didn’t notice yet, it’s at the level I want to flee reflexively.
I who is dead understands the strength of living beings to some extent.
Most likely, or perhaps unconditionally‥Can’t win. Escaping would be nearly impossible as well.
That thing should already noticed us. Slowly, but certainly getting closer.
Such thing is first. My body in which the metabolism already stopped, receives an illusion of breaking into a cold sweat.
There’s a wide difference in presence between it and the monsters I encountered so far.
This fellow is without a doubt the『Predator』. There’s no way it’s something else.
I quickly think about turning around and a way how to correspondingly repel it.
However, the result is always the same.
『Impossible』. It’s impossible to succeed in escaping. That presence of dense life force vividly shows it.
If that’s the case, the thing I can now do is.

I forcibly send Merlin alone towards the exit and block the passage by myself.
I don’t feel any other signs of life in the passage from here to the exit. She may escape from here safely.
…… No matter what Merlin says, I’m partially responsible for the death of her friends.
Therefore, the least I can do is to help her safely escape.
It’s the only thing that the current me can do.

Merlin’s heat behind me gradually weakens and then completely disappears.
According to my heat detection, she safely left the labyrinth.
From that, a slightly troubling hypothesis comes to my mind, but now is not the time to think about it.

…… Because I'm definitely going to die for the second time.
The『Predator』is coming with faint footsteps.
Probably in another 30 seconds, it would reveal its appearance.
And then——it appeared.

…… It's over.
When I think that my life is over, I thought about the priestess.
About 1 meter in height, an unexpectedly tiny body.
Very slender limbs, but I understand that they are tough almost whip-like.
The whole body covered by white scales, sharp claws that could easily cut iron in one strike.
The information about the『Predator』flowed into my mind when I could see its whole figure.
So much information flows through my mind that it comes with a headache.
A monster which mainly inhabits cold regions, and likes dead flesh above all.
In the countless number of creatures, it's at the top of food chain, the difference in status is immense between it and the undead me.
It is a『Dragon Class』——『Corpse-Eating Dragon』(Hannibal).

Give me a break.
Salivating, one of the dragon's red pupil fixes the sight at me and shines dully.
I can't feel relieved even though it's this small. Its abnormal strength is being transferred to me vividly.
If I saw the appearance of the『Predator』without knowing its strength, I would underestimate it.
But in reality, the situation was far beyond imagination.
Defeating it aside, I know that even running away would be impossible, but there was a small hope.
I didn't abandon the hope until I saw its appearance.
However, the hope was dispersed.
『Corpse-Eating Dragon』(Hanibal), it was such existence.
The guy looks at me and groans in joy like it found the finest game.
It doesn't seem like it will let me escape.
That's only natural. The kind called Hanibal should prefer a『Dead Flesh』.
After killing its prey, it will leave its flesh for a few days then eat it.
But it will never eat『Decaying Flesh』. They live in the cold regions because the

meat won’t decay due to the coldness.
And my body is moving through the labyrinth for 20 days after the death.
To him, there won’t be a better meal.
This fellow checkmated.

Hanibal leaped at me with a terrific force, I jump to the side and somehow evade.
A big scratch is left at the place I was standing before.
Before I get up, Hanibal swings it’s whip-like arm again.
…… This is bad. I can’t dodge like this.
But, I should have earned enough time for Merlin to escape.
With a monster with such overwhelming strength as my opponent, I abandon all hope.
I died once before anyway. If this second life can save one life before it disappears, there may have been some meaning.

If that’s the case——

——Ah, it’s no use.
Even if it’s like an undead or something else.
I don’t want to die yet.
I wanted to live more, if possible.
Even at the very end, I’m so uncool.

Chapter 8

……. Really, why did this happen?
Am I going to die again?
Or will I perhaps become a mindless undead?

Mou, I don’t know what’s what anymore. This is so messy, I feel sick.

…… It’s cold.

Ah, what. If I still feel the cold, does that mean I still live as an undead?
The pain is the proof, I remember some nihilistic guy in the old days that said, the coldness is testimony that life is still present.
It was quite a story. Really.

Speaking of the outcome, I didn't die.
But why, how?
When I realized, Hanibal was blown off by something.
But what? I obviously didn't do anything.
—Just, what——

Kusukusu

I suddenly heard an audible laughter from behind.
I jumped back reflectively.
A single woman stood there.
It's not Merlin. I understood because she was close.
Her presence is different. No matter how preoccupied I am with Hanibal, I would notice the presence behind me, but I did not.
Nevertheless, after examining that existence with my awareness, it's clearly stronger than Hanibal.
A long golden hair, coincidentally her eyes were the same color as Hanibal.
Around 20 years old, a woman dressed in awfully luxurious clothes.
However, I can tell.
That woman who sent Hanibal flying, this fellow is not a human.
What kind of existence is this woman?
That information poured to my head.
…… Ah.
Mou, I don't know anymore.
Why is such fellow・・・・・Why is she here!?

——A Vampire.
With the appearance of a human, a ruthless physical strength, possessing magical powers, their lifespan while not eternal, is enormous.
They increase their strength by sucking the blood of their victims, the word『Strongest』appears in my mind.
With a large amount of magic, an absolute being to both weak and strong.
However at the same time, it is said that silver and sunlight can deal even with the top class vampire.
…… But that is only limited to vampires・・・That's what the stories don't tell.
Vampire grows for a long time, it evolves with the amount of blood sucked.

『Evolution』. The potential that is hidden within every monster, even the top class species are not an exception.
A Vampire that has lived for over 100 years and sucked blood from more than thousand people can evolve into a『Vampire Noble』. Once that happens, all the weak points vampire had disappeared.
Certainly an existence that can be called the strongest. I don't know how many existences can survive in a fight against Vampire Noble.
That monster. An existence which surpasses even that monster‥‥‥

A monster designated as Demon King that could destroy the world if it felt like it, a『Vampire Lord』.
Why is such a monster in this place?

An extraordinary black tea was poured into an antique teacup, I gulp slowly.

…… It stings.

As if the warmth was escaping from my body, the feeling I've forgotten for a long time.

I sat on a chair that was prepared for me and bowed towards the woman.
I was really saved. Properly speaking, I was going to end up being eaten by Hanibal.
And she saved me. One of the five only beings designated as Demon Kings『Vampire Lord』.
Why is such an existence in the outskirts of this labyrinth?
Apparently, she uses this place instead of her holiday house. It seems that the miasma released at nights in this labyrinth is unusually comfortable.
There are two reasons she saved me. Simply, she couldn't stand Hanibal laying waste to her holiday house and she was curious about me, an undead with high intelligence.
Incidentally, I attracted her interest because I didn't have a single scratch on my body.
In short, Vampires tend to prefer beautiful things and it seems she was satisfied with me, so she helped me.
Oh well, I don't mind. It's the truth that I was saved.
I can't thank her enough.

This Vampire Nee-san’s name is Vermut Elsaroad
She will stay here in『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』for a while, and she will teach me the necessary knowledge in the meantime.
Naturally I accepted this proposal and grasped the hand that was presented to me.
I realized that I still didn’t know my name.

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Idle talk 1 – Future Life of the Bow Princess

Undead Seeks Warmth – Idle Talk 1

by Shinsori · May 6, 2016

Future life of the Bow Princess

It has been a year since I've left home and became an adventurer.
It's was the time for me to accept guild's promotion examination and face the labyrinth.
There, I lost two of my childhood friends who left with me.
I barely survived, thanks to the undead that somehow saved me.
I ran to the inn in the town, where I locked up myself and cried for three days and three nights without sleep and food.
When I returned, I finally noticed that I'm alone.
I cried, cried and cried.
I wept myself to sleep.
I dreamed while sleeping.
About the two that died, and about that undead.
I dreamt about the undead that let me escape while he stalled the monsters that attacked me before.

「I…… I won't run! I will fight and avenge my friends!!」
「Don't say such stupid things! How are you going to fight without a weapon!?」
「Let me go! I'm!!」
「Are you going to recklessly throw away your life and go to the place your friends are!? Don't waste your life in front of the dead!!」

I, who insisted on fighting was scolded by that undead, and then.
I was told to live.

「Live! Live on the behalf of your friends! Live on the behalf of the dead me! Live on the behalf of all humans who died so far! People should live to their utmost limit until they can't carry on!!」

People should live to their utmost limit until they can’t carry on.
Somehow I took those words to my heart and escaped from the labyrinth just as he told me to.
I escaped, cried and slept.
When I woke up, I mourned for my two friends.
There are no corpses. Most likely, they were already eaten by the labyrinth’s monsters to the bones.
While thinking such, I became worried about that undead.
Was he also eaten by that monsters after all……?
It will be difficult to check『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』by myself.
I can’t ask other adventurers for help.
I have to become stronger by myself.
I spent all my time training.
If it were not for those two sacrificing themselves for my sake, I may not have escaped.

After several months, I’m as strong as three people, maybe even stronger.
I took the same promotion exam and headed to the『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』.
…… That undead wasn’t here.
However, the monster who ate my two friends also wasn’t there.

I decided to look for him.
He might not be here anymore.
But, he may be elsewhere.
I decided to search until I can discover what happened to him.

『People should live to their utmost limit until they can’t carry on』

People should try to live to their best ability to keep on living until they grow old

The profound words of that undead were already deeply engraved in my heart.

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Chapter 9

Undead Seeks Warmth – Chapter 9

by Shinsori · May 6, 2016

——The deceased doesn't have a presence.
There is no heartbeat and breathing sounds.
Therefore, they sometimes become the greatest weapon.
I suppress my footsteps and I walk slowly and quietly.
The『Low-class Skeleton』(Lesser Skeleton)'s back is totally exposed to me.
It's appearance induces fear, but it actually is a slow-moving, fragile low-class monster.
It's an opponent that me, an『Immortal』(Undead) can win 9 out of 10 times without being hurt…… Is what I was told.
One step, two steps, three steps. The other side is not aware of me yet.
That should be it. A Skeleton is not intelligent enough to take precautions, it's a monster that only moves and attacks whatever is reflected in its hollow eye sockets.
It walks slowly while making creepy rattling sounds.
I push my fingers together and use my hand like a sword.
The target is the cervical vertebrae. Although the skeleton is only bones, it was formerly a humanoid. It will die without a head.
The neck of a Skeleton is especially fragile.
I move towards the Skeleton's neck and chop with my hand vigorously.
I heard a snapping sound.
Without its head, the Skeleton crumbled like a puppet whose strings snapped.

I decided to take a breather after defeating five Skeletons in the vicinity.
Though I do not breathe.
…… No matter how this undead body doesn't get tired, there still is a mental fatigue.
I slowly lean against the wall and think.
The reason I hunt so frantically is because of the conversation I had with Vermut

Nee-san a few days ago.

…… To put it frankly, my body decays after warming up.
When I was told this, I was shocked, but I also understood.
I'm a moving corpse. The flesh naturally decays with time.
The reason I didn't decay so far is, because the temperature in this Labyrinth is below the freezing point.

And one more thing. The present me can't get out of this Labyrinth.
In fact, Undead is a monster that is closer to the Skeleton, not the Zombie.
An existence that came to life after magic entered a corpse.
And the source of that magic is this place, the『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』.
In other words, I can only move in this place.
When Merlin escaped the other day because the heat has escaped with her, I thought I was feeling unpleasant because of that, but it seems that wasn't the case.
I will rot if I warm up.
I can't go out of this cold labyrinth.
As expected, even though I usually cool head, I was in despair. Nee-san taught me how to solve my problems.
The method to warm myself up without rotting, even outside of the labyrinth.
Vermut Nee-san smiled all the time while explaining everything thoroughly as if having fun teaching me who knows nothing.

There are three methods.
Become a『Followers』of a monster far superior to me.
Obtain a『Magic Tool』that contains a high amount of magic and use it as a fuel.
And finally, defeat monsters and go through an『Evolution』.
I was told these three methods could grant me my wish.

Lecture——Vermut Nee-san taught me this——The fastest route is to become her follower.
But apparently, there seems to be a suitable risk.
Firstly, one would become her follower for his whole life, it is impossible to cancel the contract.
If the master dies, you will die too. You can't put a great distance between you

and the master.
Above all, followers seem to be under a great mental strain and will collapse 9 out of 10 times.
In the first place, this is a convenient spell to control powerful monsters, there is no consideration to become a follower, this method is full of demerits.

Next,『Magic Tool』method wasn't recommended, apparently it's almost impossible to find one.
The reason being, Magic Tools are rare and very difficult to obtain, meaning I will be targeted if I walk alone with it.
It's different from the follower method and has no demerits, however thinking about what to do until then and afterwards is unpleasant.

That leaves the『Evolution』, the most realistic and easy to some extent.
Evolution. The hidden possibility of creatures with magical power.
A high ranking monster like Vermut Nee-san is necessary to take a specific action in order to evolve, but it's different for a low-class monster like me.
You should kill monsters. Weak or strong, defeat them all and snatch their magical powers for your own good.
If that's the case, cling to this labyrinth in order to preserve. The surrounding magic can prevent your body from rotting.
However, if you fail…… You will die for good this time.

What are you going to do?

After the lecture, I nod to Nee-san's question in acknowledgment.
…… There is a chance, that if I keep evolving further, I may be able to obtain a living body.
Nee-san said so.
If that is the truth, there's no need to be hesitant.
Why did I die, also who am I?
I still don't know these things.
Still, I want to live.
I want to live again.
Therefore, I will fight.
In order to regain a warm body.

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Chapter 10

Undead Seeks Warmth – Chapter 10

by Shinsori · May 13, 2016

Regular Chapter

I walk around the labyrinth quietly, trying to suppress the sound of my feet tapping.
One month has passed since I started wandering around the『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』and I finally graduated from bare feet and ragged clothes.
I have received clothes from Vermut Nee-san. I really admire her greatly.
…… But somehow she only had butler clothes.
A blood sucking vampire noble・A noblesse vampire lord・As the name suggest, they have an image of a noble…… therefore?
Maa, at least I got proper clothes. I can walk with my head held high now.
Also, when I wear this, Nee-san looks very happy. I'm glad I could be of help even a little.
Nee-san has been looking after me since we have met.
Since I have been helped in various ways indiscriminately, I want to somehow repay her kindness.
…… Therefore, I have to kill monsters until I'm able to evolve.
Nearby, there is a green caterpillar that is the size of a dog, it's the scavenging dust worm, I quickly run up to it and crush its head under my feet.
I'm different from the past me who only wandered aimlessly through the labyrinth.
I have a goal. With that alone, I'm different.
The coldness pierces my body and as always I become completely chilled.
However, my dead heart was full of hope.

I just happen to meet a low-class skeleton soldier and hammer my hand in its neck.
Like this, I'm one step closer to the warm body.

To reach the evolution is by no means an easy feat.
In order to evolve, I have to kill at least several hundred monsters.
Of course, I can't confront strong monsters without a risk.
Vermut Nee-san told me that I should patiently defeat guys that are weaker than me.
By the way, that person's (though she is not a person) strength is abnormal. As expected of demon king class monster, the small fries can't even touch her.
Once a stupid skeleton got close to Nee-san and it was immediately scattered by her overflowing magic.
Maa, if skeletons are about level 10, then it wouldn't be strange if Nee-san's level is above 200.
I'm probably around level 20. Hannibal must be around level 90.
I can win against a foe 5 level higher than me with little difficulty. If it's above 10 levels higher it's nearly impossible to win.
Maa, it's from my own judgement so I can't really tell without prejudice.
To put it simply, if Nee-san doesn't suppress her magic power intentionally, I am not able to approach her.
It seems that while I'm not able to withstand her magic power, leaving this labyrinth would be very hard.
I don't know how much stronger or which race I will evolve to. There's also a possibility that evolving once won't be enough.
Nevertheless, I will still aim towards the evolution. No matter how long it may take.
For the sake of that・・・girl, I will——Huh?
Who is 'that girl'?
Is she someone from my high school days, or someone from this world, I can't remember.
I don't remember my family, I don't even know my name, yet I'm concerned about someone.
I want to at least remember my name. I don't want to be named Nanashi John forever.

At least to remember human relationships…… ah!
My classmate who sat before me Tanioka! He was the really pleasant guy who was often chugging down mayonnaise!

……
It frighteningly didn’t matter.

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Two more chapters coming later today.

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Chapter 11

Undead Seeks Warmth – Chapter 11

by Shinsori · May 13, 2016

Sponsored Chapter – This chapter is sponsored by **Timothy W.** Thank you very much for your donation!

Today I'm looking for a prey as well and I found my first game, a Departed Soul (Ghost).
These fellows whose outward appearance looks like an ugly curtain, have no mass, therefore, they can attack through the walls and floor.
However, that's it. Their strength is weak and movement is slow. Intelligence at most at the level of Skeletons.
They may be a little difficult to handle for adventurers, but unfortunately for them, I'm an undead.
I'm a corpse that can move thanks to the magic.
In other words, this body has more than enough magic stored inside.
Basically, my attacks will hit even a monster with no mass.
I dashed forward in order to settle the battle quickly.
The ghost notices me and lets out a high-pitched scream.
The ghost's defense is laughably weak.
It can be said that I who attacks straight on has the best affinity.
I pierce my hand right between the ghost's eyebrows.
Like a fish stabbed by a harpoon, the ghost flapped around violently for several seconds.
I shake my hand 2, 3 times after pulling it out.
Because my opponent was a ghost, there was no blood, but I developed such a habit after hunting for a while.
The butler clothes Vermut Nee-san gave me are certainly a vampire quality product, after getting ripped or after blood spills on them, they self-restore after a while.
But I still can't get used to the sticky feeling of blood on my hands.

Though aside from temperature I can't feel anything else so it may be just my imagination.
Well, when my hands become bloody, I just wipe them on my clothes.
Also, Nee-san sometimes licks it off.
The sense of touch should be dull, but how to say this, her tongue give me the chills.
Is it one of the skills obtained through evolution I wonder?

Today is a play day with Vermut Nee-san.
No, I don't quite understand, but it seems it was decided.
From her stories, it seems that she doesn't have any friends.
Probably because she is way too strong.

When I arrived at the place, there was a door in the wall.
Though I've never been in this neighborhood, it seems that this place is Vermut Nee-san's room.
I used the nicely detailed knocker and knocked lightly.
Immediately, a friendly voice told me to come in.
When I open the door and come in, I immediately notice Vermut Nee-san who was sitting in the middle of a luxuriously decorated room.
We haven't met in few days. Because I got a pocket watch with the butler clothes I should be right on time.
Nee-san who is somehow happily grinning let me sit in front of her.

…… Well then, I wonder what will we play today?
While thinking so, Nee-san took out a tea and a black and white board.
Is this a chess board? So this world has this too.
As expected of Vampire Lord. She owns some tasteful toys.

Nee-san has some considerable skills. I'm quite skilled at board games myself, but she won with 7 wins and 5 losses.
And now I'm in the middle of combing the winner's hair.
My fingers aren't getting stuck at all in her silky smooth blond hair.
Soak the hair with a hairspray…… the content is blood……
Maa, she's a vampire, you can see her fangs when she smiles, the dimension is different.
Although it's nothing new, this person is a monster. Nah, although I say that, I

too am a monster.
But when I think about it, I never saw Nee-san sucking blood.
It seems she can drink only human blood. Humans around 20 years are her favorite.
I'm told she sucks them dry. That's scary.
It's the first time I feel glad that I'm already dead.

In a hall without monsters, I use one of my hands like a sword.
Though as undead I can't train my muscles, I was able to at least master my movements.
I look for a movement that enables me easily to attack and repeat that movement earnestly.
The battle method Nee-san taught me is extremely simple. Behead or hit a vital spot. One of those two.
Kick to make me access vital spots easier.
If you ask why do I only use a hand like a sword. It's really simple, it's my strongest attack.
If it's only power, naturally the kick is stronger. However, when you talk about sharpness and precision, using a hand like a sword is better.
Nee-san told me if that is the case I should practice only the Handsword.
Instead of using awkward kick attacks, I should master Handsword until I'm able to one hit kill.
Fortunately, from human and low-class monster perspective, undead's physical strength is quite high.
If I hit a vital spot, I'm able to one-hit kill even a monster of the same rank.
Furthermore, being an undead enables me to move covertly. Magicians and Priests would be hard to deal with because they can detect me through magic, but against monsters in this area, my stealth is more than enough.
My heat and life detection are very high.
In short, my tactics consist only of Surprise attacks.
In this world, it's kill or be killed. Until I have obtained overwhelming strength like Nee-san, there's no way I will fight fair and square.
If you win you live, if you lose you die. That's all.
Nee-san told me this.「Use any means necessary to live. I won't forgive you if you selfishly die」.

In order to repay my benefactor, I will keep on living no matter what.

Until this body regains warmth.
And until I repay Vermut Nee-san’s kindness.
I will live no matter what.

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Chapter 12

Undead Seeks Warmth – Chapter 12

by Shinsori · May 13, 2016

Sponsored Chapter – This chapter is sponsored by **Timothy W.** Thank you very much for your donation~!

Two months has passed since I came to this world.
A Low-Class Skeleton Soldier(Lesser Skeleton), Departed Soul(Ghost), Scavenger(Dust Worm), Rotting Corpse(Zombie).
The number of monsters I had killed exceeded 100.
Still not enough, though. I don't have the time to be cocky.
I can surely kill small fries without a problem, but I'm honestly concerned about superior monsters that reside in this labyrinth.
I have to be careful even of the lowest class demon, Lower Devil(Lesser Evil).
Corpse-Eating Dragon(Hannibal)'s sub-species is the Large Black Lizard(Black Salamander).
It looks like these two are the strongest beings in the『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』.
By the way, about Hannibal. It seems that he is an irregular that wasn't originally from the labyrinth.
According to Vermut Nee-san, he probably lost a turf war and was forced to come here.
Such a terrifying monster was defeated. I thought that this world is scary once again.

Well, aside from that.
After killing a lot of monsters, my strength rose considerably compared to me from two months ago.
The explanation is simple when a monster like me defeats another monster, a part of its magic power will transfer to me.
By doing so, the magic power will eventually exceed the amount my body can contain.

To fix this problem the phenomenon of evolution will occur.
The present me is probably around 30% to 40% full. Even so, the results are noticeable.
Therefore, it's easy to make a blunder.
As I said before, there is still a lot of dangerous creatures that could take my life.
The probability of me dying to the Lesser Evil is higher than dying to the Black Salamander.
A little carelessness will very easily lead to my demise. That's how this world works.
I understand my situation precisely.
This is the most important thing Nee-san taught me.
Not getting impatient and arrogant.
Just do it slowly one-by-one.
That is for the best.
That should be for the best……

『Nameless Immortal』(Nameless Undead)
64th Day.
Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 144/352

Gucharito, an unpleasant sound rang from my heart as Rotting Corpse(Zombie) fell to the ground.
I waved my hands several times and shook the stuck putrid flesh from my hand.
…… This is the worst. It clings even to my clothes.
That's why I hate zombies. Its grotesqueness has no limit and above all, it can't be defeated with a chop to their neck like Skeleton Soldiers.

In the first place, zombies are totally different from undead me and skeletons.
We are brought to life when the magic power enters our bodies or bones.
On the other hand, a zombie is a parasitic type of a monster.
In other words, while it looks like a corpse came back to life it actually is just a Zombie Parasite moving its body.
Therefore, severing their heads is useless, you have to crush their nests in the chest area.
To be frank, I don't want to touch them at all, but unfortunately, I can't afford such luxury.

I was somehow able to wipe off the putrid flesh of my sleeves, I look down at the corpse of the zombie.
…… Looking at it again, it’s in a terrible state. From its figure, it originally was most likely a woman.
When a person dies, he will be reduced to a lump of flesh.
And the flesh rots.
I understand. I understand that.

…… How long will I have to carry this on?
This labyrinth is cold. The temperature is always below zero.
But eventually, my body will start to decay.
When will that happen?
Several months later?
Several hours later?
These days, I’m thinking only about this.
Scary. Corruption is ugly.
I understand that impatience won’t do me any good.
However, the fear never disappears.
I crouched down unintentionally.
However, that’s it.
Tears won’t flow from this dead body.
I just kept still for a while.
I pushed my anxiety aside and stood up.
I turn on my heel and resume the hunting.
Because I don’t have the time to stand still.
Quickly, quickly.
I want to regain my living body quickly.

『Nameless Immortal』(Nameless Undead)
66th Day.
Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 195/352

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Chapter 13

Undead Seeks Warmth – Chapter 13

by Shinsori · May 18, 2016

Regular Chapter

I have found my prey.
Low-Class Skeleton Soldier(Lesser Skeleton) normally appear sporadically, but I found 7 of them gathered in one room today.
Thanks to the steady increase of the magic in my body, I have reached the equal agility level or maybe even higher than the one from the hazy memories of my previous life
And thanks to the hard leather soles on my shoes, I can run without almost any noise, I have also learned a jump-land technique.
I easily run 50 meters under 6 seconds while being silent, close the distance between me and one of the huddled Skeletons and strike its neck three times in succession.
It dropped down just like that. Because I keep attacking the same way, the magic power in my body acts unconsciously, sharpening the edge of my hand like a knife at the moment of impact.
Nee-san taught me about this mechanism. The magic mechanism that pours information into someone's head at own convenience.
This method is called the『Magic Profess』. I have learned about this just recently.
It's a unique magic that grants the target a necessary knowledge.
It's not something that everyone can do, it's a magic one is was born with, even if you kill that person, you won't be able to learn the skill.
It seems that I was able to obtain it after reviving as Immortal(Undead).
Furthermore, in the recent days the magic power increased, and the precision of Profess has risen.
With that said, I'm was told that this magic is semi-devil king class magic when fully unlocked, but for now, I can only roughly understand information about my opponent and their race.

However, it's sufficient. With that much, I can calculate my opponent's combat capability.
Three are down, only four are remaining. There are no signs of other monsters in the vicinity.
Three Skeletons have swords, the last one has a spear.
I wanted to kill the spear carrier earlier, but its position was bad.
I am curious why the low intelligence skeletons are huddled together, but now is not the time to think about it.
The enemy has noticed me. I won't be able to get behind them easily anymore.
From now on it's not an『Assasination』anymore, but『Fight』instead.

I stoop loosely and begin to move my both arms like a pendulum slowly.
In a case where there are a lot of enemies, annihilating them all without being noticed is still too hard for the present me.
For that reason, I prefer to kill the strong guys in the group first.
I digitize the information from Profess to determine their combat capability.
I have killed the strongest and the second strongest a little while ago.

From here, the possibility of winning without getting injured is about 90%.
Wounds…… If I get wounded by rusty metal tools, the decomposition of my body will accelerate.
And if a part of my body rots, it will spread to my whole body like a virus.
There is no guarantee that I would be healed from that state after evolving.
Rather, I'm concerned about evolving in rotting state.
If that happens, I may never get back living body anymore.
…… Nee-san will most likely abandon me too.
I absolutely don't want that. Therefore, I must win without getting hurt.
The skeleton with a sword which was the nearest swings down its sword at me.
However, its movements are big, a very docile, sluggish attack.
I slightly step away in order to avoid, and at the same time the sword hit the floor, I swing my right hand calmly.
Its head fell down without any resistance.
As if provoked, two swords attacked me at the same time.
From left horizontally and from right diagonally with a little delay.
However, it's an attack from someone who can't cooperate in the first place. I jump behind, and the swords clash with each other, creating an audible sound.

I run, slip between the two and brandish.
With the loss of their heads, the skeletons crumbled down.
With this, 6 are down.
Finally, only the skeleton with the longest reach remains——!?
I suddenly felt a strong chill.
I use the power in my whole body to jump backward.

Immediately after that——The place where I was standing was frozen.

…… Shit.
This was a mistake.
Why did the low intelligence skeletons were huddled together?
I understood immediately after I thought about it for a little.
Just like Undead(me), the Skeletons are able to move thanks to the magic in their bodies.
The special trait of magic is that it increases and decreases physical strength, but it also means『Able to manipulate magic』at the same time.
Because Low-class Skeleton Soldier(Lesser Skeleton) with intelligence is rare, their consciousness can be easily hijacked.

In other words, these Skeletons were operated.
There is another monster behind the Skeleton with the spear.
A creature with a glossy black fur, walking on two goat-like legs.
Lower Devil(Lesser Evil). It's the only monster in this place (Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness), that can use magic.
However, this fellow's threat isn't so direct.
If it possesses magic, it naturally means it has a high intelligence.
Therefore, they act in a group and lure their prey into a trap.
I didn't detect this fellow before, it seems that he somehow erased his presence.
When I probe my surroundings again, I can feel 7 or 8 similar existences in the vicinity.
……. It appears that I have fallen into their trap.
I trusted my detection ability way too much. If I assumed that there was a magic that can block my detection, I could have avoided this situation.
This was an obvious mistake.
Nee-san told me to not let my guard down or be cocky because I haven't

listened, I'm now in this mess.
The forthcoming of decomposition creeps on me and my eyes get cloudy.
Their objective is most likely Vermut Nee-san. She had annihilated approximately two Lesser Evil groups before, it seems some of them have escaped.
They plan to catch me and lure Nee-san out. Or maybe they want to kill me in revenge.
Either way, this is an emergency.

I pull out the topography of the neighborhood I hammered into my head and overlapped it with the placement of the enemy.
There are three routes to escape.
All of them are blocked.
With my current physical strength, it's impossible to handle around 10 Lesser Evils that can use magic.

…… But, if it's one or two.

Unlike the second most powerful monster in the labyrinth Black Salamander which I could defeat, dealing with a group of Lesser Evils is much harder.
Among routes, there is one I may possibly break through and escape.
I fixed my eyes at the Lesser Evil controlling the Skeleton carrying the spear that has blocked my way.
If I break through, it will be virtually empty behind.
Before the others come and completely encircle me, I have to break through.
I stoop low and start running with all my might.
Naturally the Skeleton with the spear blocks my way, but I go straight without minding, using a flying kick.
I crashed into the lightweight Skeleton's rib cage with all my Undead strength and it crashed into the Lesser Evil standing behind it.
Because the Lesser Evil was proud of its intelligence, it got upset after being outsmarted.
I use that opportunity and get close to the Lesser Evil with a jump.
The Lesser Evil shakes the Skeleton who obstructed its view and our eyes meet.
I, who already closed the distance, moved in to attack.
I took advantage of my power jump and pierced its heart with my hand.
The Lesser Evil died instantly.

I pulled out my bloody hand quickly and step over the corpse while running away——

——My legs, stopped.

On the route which should be virtually empty, another three appeared.

The Lesser Evils that have hidden their presences up until now appeared before me.

…… I was lured in, huh.

The footsteps of a lot of hooves resounded from behind.

My path of retreat was cut off completely.

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Share

Undead Seeks Warmth – Immortal’s Worries and Vampire Princess’s Embrace

by Shinsori · Published May 21, 2016 · Updated June 22, 2016

Sorry for the wait.

This **[CHAPTER]** is longer than usual.

Share

Chapter 14

I decided to take one day off from hunting.
I have nearly died yesterday, and most importantly my pace in recent days was way too fast.
With the current amount of magic power, I will be probably able to evolve in ten to fifteen days.
Is what Nee-san said. I was also told that my body will be all right until then.
Therefore, it would be good to take a rest for a while. The present me doesn't have any reason to be impatient.

…… Well then. Now that I have decided to take a rest, what should I do?
An Immortal(Undead) like me doesn't need any food nor sleep.
Mental tiredness gets restored without a problem after resting for a while.
However, I'm not that tired at the moment.
I have thought about going to Nee-san's place, but when I confirmed the time on my pocket watch, it was already just before noon.
She's nocturnal, so she sleeps at this time rather than in the night. Dusk——This area is always dark, but——she never gets up until then.
…… Also, Vermut Nee-san doesn't wear clothes when she sleeps so it would be bad if I intrude.

After all, I went to the big hall I always go to take a break, and sat on a pile of rubbles I substituted with a chair.
I slowly close my eyes and perform heat and life detection.
I know that the yesterday's matter with Lower Devil(Lesser Evil) happened because of my overconfidence, but they are almost certainly all annihilated now.
They are the only ones in『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』who are able to use magic. I'm not worried about being discovered with magic perception for now.
I can't detect Skeleton Soldier(Skeleton) and Rotting Corpse(Zombie) with my detectors, but I can detect them by sound.
It's possible to detect them with magic detection, but unfortunately, I seem to lack the necessary knowledge.
There's only a simple explanation in the Magic Profess. Magic is literally special

talent.
While thinking about things like that, there was a response on life detection.
Now this is unusual. Because since I started hunting in this vicinity, monsters didn't come here much.
They have probably recognized this as my territory. Although a lot of the monsters in this labyrinth lack intelligence, it seems that they all have knowledge about territories.
I was wondering why monsters didn't chase after me that much after they attacked me at first.
When I focus on the approaching life force, I immediately recognize it as Large Black Lizard(Black Salamander).
But, why…… Ah, I see.
Did it figure out that the Lesser Evil disappeared?
The sub-species of a dragon, the Black Salamander possesses some intelligence after all. With its territory rivals disappearing, it seeks to expand.
By eliminating me.
To think something like this would happen on the day of my break, how unlucky.
What should I do? The opponent is a sub-dragon who can take on five Lesser Evils.
Its combat capability is higher than those guys who fight in a group.
A three-meter long body covered in dull sword scars.
When it spits out its cold breath the moisture in the air instantly freezes.
I can't underestimate the power behind its long tail.
If I challenge it head on, my chances of winning are around 20%.
Not very welcoming numbers.
However, surrendering this place without doing anything would be too irritating.
Also. In the future, I will probably fall in the same unexpected situations like yesterday.
It's necessary to get experience fighting with stronger opponents.
Fortunately, the opponent, this time, is stupid. In the worst case scenario, I can escape.

…… It's not an opponent I can't win against, I should give it a try.

Determined, I got up from the rubble chair.
Judging by my feelings, the other side hasn't noticed me yet.

The first break I took lasted only for a while, but it’s a good time for an excercise.
Are you laying in an ambush?

But, that’s much more convenient.
My strategy that I’m so proud of can be used.
Although killing it with one blow after sneaking up on it is probably impossible.
I have to make some considerations before moving on with this strategy.
Black Salamander’s physique, method of attacking, intelligence level, I have to consider the most effective attack.

…… The problem is.
I grab a rubble that was at my feet and throw it in the air.
Then, when it falls down I cut it in half with my handsword.

Now then, will my attacks be able to pierce through its scales?

『Nameless Immortal』(Nameless Undead)
73rd Day.
Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 301/352

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Chapter 15

In order to get behind the Large Black Lizard(Black Salamander), I quickly run to the passage.
The internal structure of this labyrinth is quite complex. After all, I couldn't find the exit even after 20 days of searching.
Thus, if one understands the terrain, getting behind monsters is quite simple.
I kick the corner of the wall which allows me to turn without slowing.
After I cross another corner, I should be able to see the Black Salamander's tail.
Its sense of hearing isn't so sharp. I should be able to land an opening attack on his defenseless back.
I will swing my handsword on its neck and if I can't pierce its scales, I will withdraw immediately.
Conversely, if I'm able to damage it, I will attack the same place while avoiding its attacks.
Let's go with this.
I came across a Black Salamander once before but avoided contact.
I do not understand its attacking methods nor its attack pattern.
All I know that it breathes cold air from the front and swings its tail in the back.
Its long neck must be a hindrance, it probably can't attack with its front claws.
How about getting on its back? Judging by the structure of the body, the back may be vulnerable.
Nah, it's dangerous to be moving just on speculation. Should I wait and see at first and collect information?

I arrived at the last corner while collecting my thoughts.
Identical to the last corner, the passage is about 30 meters of straight line. I was able to see the figure of the Black Salamander.

…… Which reminds me, there was a time when this fellow made me feel cold.

My small grudge revives and I raise my speed.
20 meters. That fellow didn't notice me yet.
15 meters. I prepare my handsword.
10 meters. I stoop my body and accumulate the necessary force to the legs in

order to jump.
The moment the distance shortened to 5 meters——I leaped forward.
This might be my highest speed so far.
The trajectory of the leap is in perfect sync with the Black Salamander who still moves leisurely without caution.
I wind up the handsword.
No doubt. This will settle it.
After confirming the results I will decide if I should withdraw or not.
I aim at the lizard's neck who didn't take a notice of me yet and swing the handsword with all my might.

…… Eh?

Immediately after that.
I couldn't believe my eyes.
When I extracted my handsword from the defensive scales, without wasting time to rejoice.
Although there was a firm resistance, my handsword did not stop until I was forced to stop.
The black-scaled head of large lizard fell on the ground.
The sub-dragon with over three meters long body lose its head and fell on the ground with a thud.
In other words…… In other words, what?
This is bad, it surprised me so much that my circuits fried.
For now, let's poke the Black Salamander.

Hey, move. Don't die at your own convenience.
I planned to have a serious battle with you, wake up.

Naturally, even though I say this, the body doesn't get up.
Yes, certainly there are things like me, but.
However this labyrinth doesn't have enough magic power to create an Undead Dragon, there are at least dozens of Dragon Zombies, but to create them Zombie Parasites are necessary.

…… Anyway, I decided to calm down and think for a bit.
I recall my recent actions.

I was collecting magic power at a crazy pace.
And yesterday, I have defeated approximately three high intelligence, magic using Lower Devil(Lesser Evil) by myself.

Yoshi, I understand. Apparently, before I noticed, I have acquired enough power to deal with the hard scales of the top predator in this labyrinth.
When I calculate the sharpness and the speed of the handsword that landed on the lizard's neck with Magic Profess, I start feeling that it's only natural that the lizard died.

…… It was settled unexpectedly plainly, I wanted to win while dodging grandly, but win is still a win.
I can feel magic flowing into me from the Black Salamander's body.
This is the first time. As expected of sub-dragon, the quality of magic it contains is on a different level.
The magic power fills my body.
When I close my eyes in order to feel the magic, suddenly, creaking.
I have a feeling that my body is creaking.
While trying to figure out what is happening, my legs shake and I fall on the knees.
Magic Power is overflowing inside me. My body can't follow.
Soon the Profess informs me what is happening.
…… Evolution.
I calculated that I would evolve in about one week, maximum half a month, but by having hunted an unexpected prey of Black Salamander, it seems that it came earlier than I expected.
Rather, it hurts! To think that this body feels pain, who would have thought that exceeding your Magic Power limit is so painful!?

You didn't, tell me…… Nee-san…..

I mutter in somewhat shaky voice.
Suddenly, I collapse because I can't withstand the pain aroud my stomach anymore.
I slowly loose my consciousness.

『Nameless Undead』
73rd Day.

Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 363/352

※Magic Power Containment Limit exceeded. Starting the Evolution from Rank1 to Rank2.

※Due to the Evolution, part of the lost memories was successfully restored.

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Chapter 16

I had a dream.
Because Undead naturally don't dream, it was a long time since I dreamt.
In the dream, I was laying on the grass and reading a book.
The place…… Probably a park or somewhere similar.
I only remember it vaguely.

I was not alone, there was a girl with me.
Probably the same age, maybe a little younger.
She had black glossy hair that reached up to her waist, she was very beautiful.

I know that girl.
However, why I know this girl that I do not know.
That girl called my name.
…… Ah.
I remember it.

My name is——

When I woke up, the first place I saw was a chandelier that hang from the ceiling.
Apparently, after I lost consciousness Nee-san carried me to her room.
Feeling a presence nearby, I turn my head and see Vermut Nee-san looking at me unusually nervously.
I sit up while smiling wryly.
Then, I felt something uncomfortable in my body.
My whole body was overflowing with power. I look at my arms. They look little different.
No, it's not something like I grew a sixth finger.
The fingers became slightly more slender and on those fingers, about two centimeters long sharp nails were growing.
I want to see myself in a mirror so I request Nee-san to bring one.
I get up from the bed and stand in front of the luxurious mirror Nee-san brought.
When I see my reflection in the mirror, I open my eyes wide.
Firstly, the hair turned white, almost transparent.

My pupils look like those of a snake, the color itself changed to a warm-less light blue.
I open my mouth, all my teeth turned black, and the front teeth became shark-like razor-sharp.
My previously pale skin disappeared and was exchanged with a white as paper skin.
The facial features stayed the same, but they were one step closer to their 'final form'.

While I was being surprised by the evolution, my sleeve was gently pulled.
When I look back, Nee-san asks me if my body is all right.
Apparently, you shouldn't be able to faint during the evolution.
It's probably because of the reconstruction of my lost memories——Memories!
That's right, memory.
During the Evolution, part of my lost memories returned.
Among the recovered memories was my name.

I inform Nee-san that I remembered my name.
Her eyes sparkled and she drew closer in order to learn my name.
Because she wasn't able to call me by my name, she was quite irritated.
I nodded as I agree that not knowing one's name is irritating and told her my name.

——Takahina.
Himuro Takahina.

That is my name.
…… I won't forget it anymore. Absolutely.
And I remembered one more thing.
That little of my memories returned during the evolution.
I don't know the reason why it did, but my reasons to aim for evolution increased.
While getting a living body, I will also get my memory.
Isn't that simple.
Although after becoming Undead, I really didn't know what to do.
Now I can move forward again.
The current goal is——

——Evolve and do something about this coldness!

Why is it so damn cold! It’s so cold I could die! Even though I’m already dead!

Why is it so cold, what is the reason!?

What on earth did I evolve into!

『Freezing Undead』 Himuro Takahina

74th Day.

Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 363/1621

※The『Evolution』from Rank1『Undead』to Rank2『Freezing Undead』has been completed.

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Chapter 17

Freezing Undead.
The huge amount of magic power retains the cold, a medium ranked Undead with a non-decaying body.
Depending on the circumstances, the damage and defects can be repaired with ice and at night when the magic in the labyrinth is the most active, it's possible to regenerate.
The physical strength is several times higher than Undead's. The sharpness of the nails can be compared to the sharpness of a steel sword.

…… I have reincarnated into such being.
To think that me who above all seeks the warmth would get the complete opposite.
It's can't be considered irony anymore, it's a plain harassment.
But…… I have certainly become strong beyond comparison, I'm no longer scared of decaying.
Also, though limited only to nighttime, I'm able to leave this labyrinth.
And, the vicinity around the labyrinth is a dark zone.
It's not an exaggeration to say that I can go outside without a problem.
The most aggravating thing is the increased coldness. But, because of what I have become, there's no helping it.
I can't delevel back and it's not like I can evolve only once.
Then, this time, let's settle on having the method of not decaying and the ability to heal my wounds.
It was unbearable moving with frozen limbs at first, but I somewhat got used to it after one day.
Staying positive and moving forward. Staying positive.

I'm now following behind Nee-san who is heading out of the labyrinth.
Since I've become an Undead. I can finally see the outside of this world.
…… It's a strange feeling. Feelings of joy mixed with anxiety, such feeling.
When we come to the long staircase that leads out of the labyrinth, Nee-san looked back at me.

Her usually expressionless face had a little smile on and she presented her hand before me.
After a slight pause, I take her hand.
Nee-san’s Vampire hand temperature isn’t high at all.
Nevertheless…… It felt warm to my cold body.

The Wind blows at me.
I didn’t pay attention to it before, but it was really a long time since I felt the wind.
I finish going up the staircase and step outside.

——Wide.

It’s totally different from the labyrinth’s walls and ceiling.
The scenery continued as far as I could see.
Grassy plains around the labyrinth, and towering mountains in the back.
This is the outside.
This is the world.
I didn’t think that I was locked up in such small place.
When I come out like this, it really feels like I was captured inside a cage.
There are no walls nor ceiling.
When I look at the sky, I see clouds, stars and a large red moon.
I haven’t seen such moon before, it is shining red.
It was painting the darkness red.

It surely looks weird to humans.
Red sky, ground, everything must look sinister to them.
However.
For me who isn’t human anymore, it looked beautiful.
When I’m admiring the scenery, Nee-san beside me suddenly laughs.
She really wanted to show me this scenery once I evolve.
She laughed again when she said so.
Her bashful face was lit red just like the moon.
It was more beautiful than anything I have ever seen.

Idle talk 2 – Arrow Shooting Girl

Kirikirikiri…… Pashu.

Identical noises were endlessly resounding in a vacant piece of land.
One young girl was standing in this unpopular place.
She kept pulling the bow in her hands.

「91…… 92……」

Kirikirikiri…… Pashu.

Most of the arrows shot pierced the target dozens of meters away.
Many stuck arrows in the same place made the target look like a hedgehog.

「99…… This is it……!」
Pashu.

She picked the last arrow at her feet and fired it.
After confirming that the arrow struck the center of the target, the girl——Merlin sat down while holding the bow.

「Haa…… Haa……」

Sweat appears on her forehead and her breathing is rough too.
Because of the continuous pulling of the string, blood was flowing out from her hand.
She is obviously overworking.
Because of her hard-working nature, she already imposed such an unreasonable training on herself many times…… This time, it's particularly bad.
But now, Merlin doesn't have any companions who can stop such an absurdity.
No. She may be doing this because of that very reason.

「…… tsu」

After her breathing calmed down, her heart started to hurt.
The sadness attacked her, causing her to scream out in a loud voice.
She became alone.
The unchangeable fact pierced her heart.

「Sieg…… Alice……」

The names of her childhood friends and irreplaceable companions spilled out from her mouth.
They have died.
Only she herself survived.
The feelings of longing overflowed inside her. And regrets.
If only she were stronger.
So strong that she wouldn't lose against anyone.
The pain similar to thorns piercing her heart sprang while she thought about her friends.

「…… tsu」

Merlin stood up slowly.
More than two months already passed since that day.
She must become stronger.
Much stronger than she is now.
Once again, she loaded the arrow in her bow and aimed at the target.
She didn't think that this was the right way at the beginning.
However, right now, it's the only thing she can do.
If she doesn't get stronger, she can't enter the『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』again.
In order to find mementos of her friends and to find that Undead.
For this reason, her way can't be wrong.
The only thing she can do right now is to shoot her arrows.
She's having such messy thoughts.
Merlin continued shooting the arrows.

I have been regretting fleeing from the labyrinth for a long time.
…… However.
I am not thinking "if only I died in place of those two".
The Undead who helped me said.

『People should live to their utmost limit until they can't carry on』

I'm alive.
Even if I die, those two won't come back.

Therefore, I will live on their part.
If I didn’t think such, I wouldn’t be firing my arrows like I’m now.
I wouldn’t even be able to stand up.
Those words full of life that I have received from the Undead.
Before I noticed, became my everything.

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Chapter 18

『Mountain Range of Dusk』.
And『Red Rouge Plains』.

This neighborhood is mainly divided to mountains and plains, and monsters are distributed accordingly.
Especially the『Mountain Range of Dusk』which turns red in the night is a mountain full of ominous magic power and demons.
Even that Corpse-Eating Dragon Hannibal was chased from his territory, its a very dangerous place.
To be honest, entering that place as I'm right now would be suicide.
But fortunately, the mountain monsters descend the mountain only rarely.

The monsters of the『Red Rouge Plains』are certainly strong too.
But after evolving into the Freezing Undead, it's not like I can't compete with them.
I heard from Nee-san that they are monsters of a similar level to Black Salamander.
The monsters inside the labyrinth are weaker compared to those outside.
Probably because of the bad visibility and the limited space. If I can defeat the Black Salamander I should be able to handle the monsters of the plains.

Well, anyway. I can't settle on the magic power from the monsters inside the labyrinth anymore.
That place will be my hunting grounds from now on.
I will take a look around, Nee-san should return first.
When I told Nee-san about my plans, she nodded in agreement.

After parting ways with Nee-san, I close my eyes and concentrate on the heat detection.
I can feel the heat in the surroundings. Maybe that's why I can tell that my body is cold.

The coldness is the difference in temperature.
That's the reason I feel cold from head to the tip of my toes.

Because I understand the temperature around me, my cold body feels even colder.
But no matter how far I expand my sense, my body is still here.
The heat in other places does not reach me.
After becoming the Freezing Undead, the surface of my body got covered by a thin layer of ice further blocking the heat from me.
…… I want a body that generates heat next time.

While thinking such, my senses kept expanding.
A radius of about 200 meters around me. That is my current range limit.
Aside from the air and inanimate objects, I find a few heat releasing beings.
For some reason, one was in the sky.
…… I see. This is outside, naturally there would be flying monsters around.
I completely forgot because I was living in the labyrinth for so long.
From now on, I must also pay attention above me.

I roam not too far from the labyrinth and extend my heat detection.
…… Apparently in the plains, there are many devil beast type monsters.
The movement of the heat is fast and their temperature is generally high.
How enviable. From the Immortal Undead's view(mine) having a warm body is more than great.
Ah, I want to become devil beast type too. For instance, the top of immortality class Vampire. Even Nee-san's temperature is very low.
However, am I asking for an impossible……?
What if continue hunting devil beast monsters and collect their magic power?
I may become something closely relative.
Nee-san said that sometimes during evolution, you inherit the characteristics of the strongest monster you consume.
…… Huh? Is that why I gained ice attribute?
If that's the case, I blame you Black Salamander. To cause me feel cold even after death.
I won't forgive you. Someday, I will annihilate you.

After walking for about an hour, I've detected a heat source coming my way from above.
I have thought about hiding at first, but it's difficult to hide from someone

watching from the skies.
But well, it’s just right…… I have thought that I need experience fighting against an airborne opponent.
I open my eyes and lie in wait for my enemy.
Perhaps because my opponent is a bird type, it’s very fast.
But it’s not at the level where I can’t react.
I prepare my handsword and take an aggressive stance.
The heat suddenly accelerated.
It surprised me a little bit, but it’s natural that the speed increases while swooping.
I correct the timing of my attack and send it flying with a kick to the side.
The reason I didn’t use my handsword, is because it may not have enough force to cut down the monster.
The monster rolled in the grass.
I saw the figure of my opponent for the first time.

…… Tsu!?

The foot that moved to deal the fatal blow stopped in a moment.
The monsters couldn’t move because of the shock from the kick, and tried to get up while wobbling.
Magic Profess sent information about the monster before my eyes into my head.

…… Raven Harpy.

It’s name escaped unconsciously from my mouth.
Probably because of the evolution, the knowledge of Magic Profess increased and more than ever information about the species appeared inside my head.

Slender body. Legs identical to bird’s, arms unified with black wings.
Since coming to this world, I knew I would come across it eventually, just like Nee-san.
I decided to fight for evolution, so we had to face one day or another. But, there’s one problem.
…… That is——

——While observing the body that is very similar to human’s, our eyes met.

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Chapter 19

…… Before I came to this world.
I was raised in a peaceful country without wars. Me, who saw people dying only on television, can someone like that kill something so similar to a human?.
Originally, I thought about this before hunting, but I put that question aside.
The reason is simple. I did not want to find the answer easily, and above all, the『Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness』doesn't have any humanoid monsters.
You could say that the Rotting Corpse Zombie was once humanoid, but it clearly is just a corpse.
However…… This is different.

The Raven Harpy girl in her late teens who fell to the ground doesn't try to attack me again, she just stares at me with a frightened face.
Harpy species…… No, the overall intelligence of all pseudo-humans is high. There are individuals who can understand human language among them.
Therefore, they have rich feelings and a strong fear of death.
Up until now, I have been slaughtering Solder Skeletons and Departed Souls.
They are totally different.

What to do?
What should I do?
It would be easy to twist this Harpy's neck right now. It would be over in one second.
But, is it the right thing to do?
If I do it, would I be able to live as I was until now?

I understand that I no longer am a human, I accepted it.
However, still, it doesn't mean that I threw away my human heart.
I don't want to kill people.
Although my true feelings come from an emotionally-charged argument, a simple word comes to my mind『Unnecessary』.
Even if I kill a human being, I won't get any Magic Power. Thus, it's unnecessary, therefore, I won't kill you.
Isn't that a logical thinking?

But, ‘that’ in the first place is not a human. It only looks similar to a human.
If I kill it, I will obtain Magic Power. Moreover, several times more than from a Skeleton.

However, but. Isn’t this child frightened?
Obviously. Everyone is afraid of death. ‘This’ is only easier to understand.
But, doesn’t that mean that it has a mind?
An existence with a presence of mind, even if it’s not a human, even if it’s only close to a human, am I able to put an end to it?

Doesn’t that mean I was killing mindless opponents until now?
Skeleton, Zombie even a Ghost. Perhaps all of them had a presence of a mind, I just simply couldn’t understand.
After killing them all with a calm face, why am I hesitating now?
It’s something I must prepare for eventually.
I have decided that I won’t stop.
Wasn’t I going to regain a living body?
For that reason, many sacrifices are necessary.

‘That’ is not a human. It’s clear.
It’s only similar in shape, it’s clearly only a monster.
This isn’t a world I can live in with such lukewarm attitude.
It’s a world only the strong, clever and lucky ones survive.
Because I am strong, I was able to step over the Skeletons and Zombies.
Because I am smart, I was able to separate Black Salamander’s head from its body.
Because I am lucky, I survived the encounter with Lesser Evil and Hannibal.
But, this Harpy is different.
This fellow is a fool who challenged someone stronger that itself.
Nobody can complain even if it dies.
Therefore, kill it. The same way you killed until now.
And obtain the nourishment.
With the nourishment gain the power in order to get a life.
Make a resolution to kill every monster apart from Nee-san right now!

…… In the end, I wasn’t able to kill the Harpy.
I turned by back on her sobbing and trembling figure.

I faintly told her to「Go」. And left like that.

Standing in the middle of the plains, I gazed at the rising red moon.
It wasn't hypocrisy.
It wasn't compassion either.
I just wasn't able to kill something so similar to a human, I couldn't finish off my prey.
It was selfish of me.
Killing monsters so thoroughly in order to evolve, and yet to hesitate to deal the finishing blow.

…… What to do from now on I wonder?

That every life is equal, I don't possess such saintly thoughts.
Rather I think that human life is not equal, I don't think the ordinary person's life is equal to that of Hero's.
Even though I have decided to trample over the difference in value.
This is the result.
There's a limit to being miserable.

While feeling such feelings, something ran towards me from behind.
A wolf the size of a big dog…… I check it with Magic Profess. It seems this is『Night Wolf』, a well known monster in this area.
I jump over the wolf and gift my handsword to its neck.
Dumbfounded at how easily it went through, the Night Wolf died.

…… I can kill a beast so easily.
If this was the Harpy, I couldn't even point the handsword.

I couldn't even ridicule my own selfishness.

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Chapter 20

The problem that I put off on the previous notice has returned, I'm really worried.
…… At the very least I should lighten up my expression, but I am not able to.

Anyway, I've confirmed the terrain, and came to understand the strength of monsters to some extent now, therefore, I have decided to return to the labyrinth.
Before meeting with Nee-san who should be waiting for me at the entrance, my sunken expression will hopefully return to normal.
Because I don't want to needlessly worry her.
I'm possessing a body that doesn't need to breathe, but because of my habit in the living era, I sigh deeply while walking down the staircase.

Two seconds after meeting Nee-San, she told me that I was acting weird.
How can she tell? No, really, how did she find out?
I unconsciously asked the same thing twice. It was just that unexpected.
Nee-san fixed her eyes on me and was staring at me deeply with her ruby pupils.

Please don't look at me with such eyes. It makes me feel like I've sinned instead.

I went as far as not using honorifics, but it didn't stop Nee-san's staring.
Come to think of it, Vampires dislike lies and secrets, right?
No, was it Oni? But, vampire's name is derived from Oni. *(Shin:* 吸血鬼 *Vampire;* 鬼 *Oni)*
But either way, it seems I will be stared at until I speak the truth.
…… But I won't speak.
Indeed, this is a problem I should solve myself.

She made me talk.
It's certain that I was pretending to be tough while feeling depressed, moreover, to think Nee-san had such strong measure.
While trying to deceive her and escape, her mantle transformed into countless bats and captured me.

So the bats were produced in such way……
She dragged me to her room and confined me until I was ready to talk.
Because I couldn't think of it as a simple joke, I started talking. I couldn't help but start talking.

I couldn't kill a pseudo-human.
I avoided it after injuring it.

Although she is broadly similar to pseudo-humans, it may be difficult for a monster like Nee-san to understand.
In fact, she tilts her head in a confusion. Because around here, the basic sense of value is different, there's no helping it.
I was originally a human. Therefore, I'm unable to kill something of the same shape without hesitation.
When I tell her that, she tilts her head to the side again.
This…… I said it plainly.

Then, it would be all right if you just don't kill them.

There is no rule anywhere saying that you are required to kill everything weaker than you.
There's no merit to killing on a whim.
That way, you don't have to kill as much as you like.
Nee-san said.

The strong have the privilege to decide between life and death of the weaker ones.
If you don't want to kill it, choose a different prey.
You have enough strength to be somewhat picky, and in the future, you will be even stronger, she said.

Honestly, it was shocking.
It was obviously a theory of the strong. The weak wouldn't tolerate such theory.
I also thought it was an opinion of someone who can trample over anything.
However, at the same time, just a little.
It was just a little, but I felt like I was saved.

Certainly, Nee-san's words may sound selfish, absurd and they definitely don't solve all of my problems.

And I’m sure that this person doesn’t understand why I can’t kill pseudo-humans with my own hands at all.

But, there’s no mistaking that it solves one of my problems.
For the purpose of my goal I have taken many lives, and somewhere deep down I was searching for my『Righteousness』.
If you take, I will also equally take. No discrimination.
There surely was such thought.
Not for anyone else, I wanted my own little more forgiving rule for myself.
I’m hesitant to kill pseudo-humans. If I don’t kill I won’t be able to show my equality.
I probably thought something so ridiculous.

….. Ah.
I’m glad I was able to encounter a pseudo-human at this time.
If I had met them later, when I’m more accustomed to this world.
I would probably kill pseudo-humans while misunderstanding that my equality is the most correct, immersed in a cheap satisfaction.
Something like that must not happen.

I’m still not determined.
I will avoid killing those with a human shape.

I will fight while having mixed feelings.
But, I intend to carry such thoughts for a while.
You should carry them when you have to.
While I’m carrying them, I will not be able to kill pseudo-humans.
But, that’s fine.
If I throw them away so easily, I won’t be ‘former human’ anymore.
I won’t be able to regain warm body with a frozen heart.

Carry on, carry on, carry on to the end.
And I will be able to find the answer.
That’s surely it, is what I thought.

Chapter 21

『Red Rouge Plains』's prospects are good.
Therefore, unlike in the labyrinth, surprise attacks are becoming more difficult.
Besides, beast type monsters have good hearing, their sense of smell is also good.
I can only approach after considering things like wind direction. If I mess up, it will call for friends and I will be surrounded.
There are not many monsters acting in a group but…… Better safe than sorry.
I won't make the same mistake I made with the Lesser Evil.

There is a reaction from the Heat Detection.
The number is 2. Body temperatures are stirred, they are probably in the middle of a fight.
After the Evolution, my overall capability has improved, but the Heat Detection improved the most.
As the by-product of the sudden temperature decrease, I can detect even the slightest changes in temperature.
The temperature of living beings changes depending on their emotions and physical condition.
If I attack my opponent, I can understand their emotions and condition.
As ever, I will lose sight of it when concealed with magic, but I'm happy that my precision rose.

I walk towards the location slowly in order to avoid suspicion.
I watch the opposite party, while hiding behind a big rock.
Two Night Wolves are fighting each other.
Apparently, they seem to be fighting over meat of some small animal.
…… Both of the same species, there's not much difference between their abilities.
A top of starvation, they are getting fatigued from the fighting.
This is a chance.
I jump up on the rock and wait for the moment when the distance between the two shrinks.

At the moment they bare their fangs in order to bite, I leap with all my might.
Before the Night Wolves notice me, I attack their necks with handsword. They couldn't even react.
I turn around in an arc and see two heads floating in the air.
Together with sounds of two heads hitting the ground, I swing off the blood from my hands.

In Approximately three hours, I hunted several other monsters besides the Night Wolves.
For example, a spider that could swallow a human child whole『Tsuchigumo』.
A『Sword Lion』that had numerous thorns that resembled rapiers instead of a mane.

And a slightly difficult to handle, a 5-meter long snake,『Violent Serpent』
The snake feels its prey with heat just like me.
Thus, I who has a body covered in ice, couldn't hide and had to face the snake upfront.
The tactics I use are fundamentally assassinations.
With this tactics, I was able to win against opponents stronger than me without sustaining major injuries.
To be frank, fighting head-on is troublesome. I was almost swallowed whole.
Let's escape next time.

Afterward, ah right.
I encountered a pseudo-human again.
A monster which had the appearances of wolf mixed with human, a『Werewolf』.
It was male, unlike the Harpy from before but…… I couldn't kill it after all.
Ah, in the first place, it's not like I didn't kill the Harpy because she was female.
It had sniffed me out thanks to its nose but fortunately escaped after figuring that I was stronger.
However, next encounter may not go so smoothly.
What I came into contact this time…… Wasn't only the Werewolf, I have confirmed another two species of Pseudo-human race.
A monster in the same system as Werewolf, not with outer appearances as a wolf, but a cat『Werecat』.
Limbs covered in solid scales, a strong tail, and horns growing on its head

a『Dragonewt』.

Dragonewt is especially dangerous. Unlike others, it's stronger than me.
Right now, I don't have the resolve to kill Pseudo-humans, I didn't even settle to my new ways, and I encounter something like that. That was the worst.
In addition, there are many other monsters stronger than me in this plains.
Actually, I was lucky to catch the Sword Lion by surprise and penetrate its heart.
…… I must quickly discover how things work here or I will be in trouble.
The environment is too different from the labyrinth. The terrain, enemies, everything.
First of all, I must think about how will I deal with Pseudo-humans.
I have obtained a considerable amount of Magic Power today, let's return back to the labyrinth.

……?

I stop in my tracks on the way back.
I spread my senses and perform the Heat Detection.
The reaction…… Nothing in particular.
There are no monsters within the range of 200 meters around me.

However…… I felt something watching me for an instant.
I will look around just in case.
My night vision isn't that special, but at least I can see.
There's no sight of any big creatures nearby.
Caution is necessary if the opponent uses Magic concealment, but somehow it feels different.
Just my imagination?
I trust my senses 100%, I'm not overestimating myself.

While increasing my vigilance, I start walking again.
I can't feel it anymore. It was just my imagination after all.
I'm still not familiar with these hunting grounds. I may be mentally fatigued.
I will rest a little once I return.

Chapter 22

After leaving the plains, I went through the gathered intelligence and sorted out my prey.
It's not too difficult to hunt lower ranks which are in large numbers such as Night Wolf and Tsuchigumo. I have decided to hunt mainly them for the time being.
When the intelligent Pseudo-humans noticed my existence, they took various actions depending on the individual and species.

There were those who ran away and those who didn't approach me.
Behaviour of these fellows is saving me trouble. I am not able to kill Pseudo-humans, if possible I don't want to fight them.
Naturally, there were exceptions. But those were not particularly harmful.
If you think about it. Pseudo-humans who can understand the human speech would rather avoid me, unlike the beast that attacks instinctively.
They are monsters at their roots, so I can never be careless around them, but there is around 80% chance to be avoided.

…… Just, part of the belligerent fellows consider me their target.

Pseudo-humans with strong combative instincts are always in search for a fight.
These fellows are interested in the Undead that recently defeated a lot of monsters.
I did not think much about it until now, but if I keep hunting in such way, of course, I will attract some of those nasty fellows.
I considered restraining myself, but it's already too late so I stopped.
The seed has already been planted. Therefore, I need to quickly collect magic so these guys won't be a threat to me anymore.

If I am not able to kill them, I need to get strong to the extent I could go easy on them.
If I don't want to fight, I need to get strong enough to crush their spirits.
In the end, there's no other way for me, but to become stronger.
I should have done this from the beginning, such feelings accumulated inside me.
In order to regain the warmth of life.

In order to grasp the memories that faded away.
In order to avoid killing beings that are similar to humans in appearance.

I saw my hand incidentally.
A pure white hand with slender fingers and sharp nails.
This hand reaps lives for my selfish reasons.
…… The human girl I met before. Was her name Merlin?
I remember the words I yelled at her when we were escaping from the Corpse-Eating Dragon.

People should live to their utmost limit until they can't carry on.

I'm dead and I kill in order to live.
In order to live once more.
It surely isn't the right thing to do.
…… But.
Even still, I want to live.
I kill beasts, I kill demons, I can't kill Pseudo-humans.
Even tough it's so selfish, I want once more.
I want once more to feel the warmth in this body.

While running through the plains, I sense heat in the 100-meter radius around me.
100 meters is my limit while on the move.

I catch the heat.
I guess it's Big Tarantula from its temperature and shape.
It's impossible to distinguish monsters with similar traits as Pseudo-humans, but I can distinguish other races.
This heat detection ability is very useful, but I'm freezing cold because of it.
I dash towards the heat while complaining about my freezing body.
It's hard to see the body because its color is similar to the grass in the plains, but I was able to find a body of a large spider.
I appropriately pretend not to see and turn my back.

I can win against such monster sufficiently upfront, but it never hurts be cautious.
I leap the last 10 meters and kick the abdomen of the Big Tarantula from below.

The large spider did a half-turn in the air while letting out high-pitched scream.
It inevitably faces upwards, the spider's grotesque head is in a full view.
The tarantula struggles in order get back on feet but I naturally don't waste time and swing my handsword.
The sharpness of my nails and the handsword nicely separates the Big Tarantula's head. It stopped moving after a few seconds.

I shake off the sticky fluids from my hand and wipe my hands in a handkerchief made from the same material as my clothes.
After carefully wiping my fingers one by one, I put the handkerchief away and take out my pocket watch from my breast pocket.
Approximately four hours passed since I started hunting.
I should return soon. My mental fatigue has already piled up, and Nee-san will get worried if I don't return soon.
She has been waiting for my return at the labyrinth entrance lately after all.
I was told that waiting for someone to return is considerably fun.
I don't understand. Most likely, because I myself don't like waiting.
Therefore, in order not to keep Nee-san waiting, I turn on my heel and return to the labyrinth.

I stop.
…… Again.
Again, I feel eyes on me.
I'm being watched from somewhere.
However, from where?
I don't know. I don't feel any heat in the range of the heat detection.
Is it hiding with magic or is it more than 200 meters away?
It's probably the latter. Because the former would definitely conceal the 'watching you' feeling I'm getting.
I look around, but can't find anything.

Lately, I feel as if someone is watching me, but I can't find the culprit at all.

The eyes fade away before long.
I stop in this place for a while.
Still can't find it after all.
I clicked my tongue and returned to the labyrinth.

『Freezing Undead』Himuro Takahina

93rd Day.

Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 699/1621

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Chapter 23

It's raining today so I've decided to take a break from hunting.
I dislike rain. The raindrops that fall on my body will freeze and cover me from head to toes in ice.
The precision of Heat detection would drop and it would impair my movement.
And above all, monsters also prefer to remain hidden from the rain.

I sit on the resting place's rubble as always.
Nee-san is sleeping soundly as usual. Basically, she won't get up until night no matter what.
To be able to sleep so deeply is unusual.

…… Well, putting that aside.

I've been finally able to use Magic Profess on my own after closing my eyes and concentrating.
So far, the information flowed into my head automatically.
Although special magic should be quite simple to use with one's own intention, it seems that I don't have a talent for magic.
Still, being able to use it is a godsend.

Race Name: Freezing Undead
Classification: Immortal・Pseudo-human variety
Attribute: Ice
Rank: 2
Individual Name: Himuro Takahina
Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 738/1621

The provided information is about myself.
Apart from race and attributes, the numerical value of strength is also showing.
In comparison to monsters of the plains, my combat capability is roughly above average.
My Present Magic Power is amounting to about 40% of my Magic Power Containment Limit.
If I have such ability right now, after Evolution, I should have enough power to

kick monsters of the plains around.
I'm hunting only to live. Surely, I will be able to regain life next time.

After confirming my ability, I cancel the Profess.
I've got a sudden idea and carry it out.

Race name: Vampire Lord
Classification: Immortal・Demon King variety
Attribute: Darkness
Rank: 9 (MAX)
Individual Name: Vermut Elsaroad
Present Magic Power: 126,538

…… The hell is this?

I checked Vermut Nee-san's stats out of curiosity.
I've recognized that Nee-san is extremely strong, but the numerical value is out of this world.
I can't even imagine such power coming out of her slim body.
The fearsome Magic Power that exceeds 100,000. Is the limit not shown because the rank is maxed?
The height, weight and three sizes…… It would be bad to look at it without permission.
I cancel the Profess. When the Profess is intentionally invoked, there are miscellaneous information mixed in. It's little inconvenient.
Practice is required, but perhaps because my understanding of magic is low, it does not go well.
Since I get information during a battle without permission, it could become inconvenience any time.
Failure is the Mother of Success. I admire the people of the past.

Anyway, I have understood that Nee-san is out of the norms.
To be picked by such person may have been my greatest luck.
If not for her, I would have already disappeared from this world a long time ago.
No can't thank her enough.
How can I return Nee-san this great debt of gratitude?

I wait until the time Nee-san wakes up and go to her room.

I knock on the door lightly and hear the sound of movement in return.
It seems that I'm exactly on time.

I enter the room after waiting approximately 10 minutes.
Nee-san who sits on her bed in dressing gown still half-asleep looks at me.
Her beautiful blonde hair was still little disarranged.
I take a comb and spray from the shelf and pull a stool.
Nee-san sits slowly on that stool while rubbing her eyes.
She sits with her back facing me, I wet her hair with the blood spray and comb her hair.
In order not to pull, I comb gently and carefully.

I am now completely accustomed to this job.
Nee-san is bad at getting up.
Therefore, after she wakes up, it's hard to fix her appearance.
Dressing up aside, fixing her bed hair requires a detailed operation.
Because of her exquisiteness most people probably wouldn't notice her bed hair, but I can't help but be bothered by it.
Thus, because of that, I have volunteered to comb Nee-san's hair after she wakes up.

I noticed that her hair grew again while combing.
Her bangs are especially in the way.
When I tell Nee-san that the hair needs to be cut, she obediently nods.
They were obstructing her after all.

It's not necessary to use scissors.
After returning the spray to its place, I fit Nee-san's hair with my nails.
I cut the hair with my nails just like that.
These nails can cut better than incompetent scissors.
I finish the haircut quickly and collect the hair which fell on the ground.
And then, I gulp that hair down.

If you ask me why did I do such thing, that's because Nee-san's hair contains quite a lot Magic power.
In other words, it's for the Evolution. I, who hunt a lot of demon beasts and demon insects naturally may inherit their properties in the next Evolution.
Therefore, I occasionally eat Nee-san's hair.

I’m told that Nee-san’s high-quality magic may take priority during the Evolution.
I who can’t kill Pseudo-humans is grateful to death.
Because even if I Evolve and obtain a living body, I don’t want to become an insect.
Although the hair I eat is low in quantity, but if I have to choose between that and killing Pseudo-humans, there’s no need to think.
…… I can’t even tell the taste anyway.

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Chapter 24

…… After all, it's no use.

After meditating in Nee-san's room, I open my eyes slowly and my forehead wrinkles.
Nee-san who sit on the bed still dozing off looks at me while giving a small yawn.
I look at her and slowly shake my head.

In order to use magic, one must feel the magic within his body first.
…… But, though Nee-san started teaching me basic of magic since a while ago, I am not able to feel the Magic power at all.
I have felt Magic power once when I defeated Black Salamander, however, that was not intentional.
Nee-san is professional so it's easy as pie for her to use magic, she told me that I can't use it because「You have no sophistication」.
Failing at basics of basics is in a sense unusual, I won't give you a seal of approval anytime soon.
You should give up on magic and concentrate on martial arts instead.
I am told again and again.

But, even I am fully aware of that.
That for someone with zero talent in magic, using a handsword that surpasses many high qualities edged tools is better.

However, there is something I absolutely must learn.
Magic detection. A support Magic that would allow me to become aware of my surroundings.
I feel like someone is watching me recently.
What if that being is concealed with Magic?
That's not everything I'm concerned about.
Monsters with no temperature can't be detected by the Heat detection.
There may be comrades slipping through my detection.
As for Life detection, it's range is too small, and unlike in the labyrinth, there are

too many animals of various sizes in the plains to use it with a satisfactory effect.
For surprise attack・assassin type like me, catching prey off guard is most important.
It's necessary to increase my precision immediately.

However…… As I said before my talent in magic is literally the worst.
I can't even proceed to basics because I can't even sense the Magic itself.
How do you teach someone how to fire a gun, when he doesn't even know how to load a bullet?
Nee-san who gave up in the middle of the lecture is half asleep.
I don't have any intention to stop at the moment…… but the road seems long.

I run through the plains in search of prey.
The potential of Heat detection increased, but the reliability seems to drop recently.
Because of the feeling of being watched, I can't even concentrate clearly.

In the first place, it seems that I have depended on the Heat detection way too much.
There seems to be a technique to pinpoint a position of the prey if you look and feel.
But I'm an amateur after all. I, who was an ordinary high school student, couldn't possibly obtain such technique in my lifetime.

This is impossible even for Nee-san.
When I was under attack of Lesser Evil, she used bats created from her own body, of that I am aware, but in truth, Nee-san's detection is poor.
She's way too strong.
She's opposite to me, an undead who can feel the living beings, Nee-san who is way too strong can't sense almost anything.
Therefore, in order to increase her visibility, she creates bats and detect by visuals.
When I asked if her bats are not able to do echolocation before, she told me that her bats are classified as Megabats, so it's impossible.
Also, since that person was born as Vampire, she didn't bother to learn something she wasn't able to do like detection.

To put it simply, even Nee-san has her weak points.
I must do something about the detection myself.

I hunt as always while occasionally avoiding Pseudo-humans.
While hunting, I found a new troublesome monster.
It's name『Men-eating Earthworm』(Men Eater). Approximately a four-meter earthworm that moves under the ground.
Its actual strength is no big deal. I can easily cut its soft body with a single blow.

The problem is its living habitat.
This monster which moves in underground…… Can't be detected by heat detection at all.
Right. My detections have almost no effect underground.
I was, fortunately, lucky this time. When this fellow came from underground I was really scared to death.

It was a big deal that I came across this. Until now, I have never thought about enemies underground.
That's not all. While paying attention to the top, I have to pay attention to the below now too. I may have to pay a high price.
The Magic detection and a way to increase my other detections is more and more necessary.
I must somehow become aware of magic while looking for a way to increase my enemy detection.
Either way, some measures are needed.

After killing my last Night Wolf, I decided to return back to the labyrinth.
The eyes that stared at me…… Suddenly disappeared once again.
There was no harm done for now, but it's really creepy.
…… I feel like my worries are increasing recently.

When the Freezing Undead, Himuro Takahina disappeared in the dark labyrinth,
one Raven Harpy descended to the ground and greedily devoured the Night Wolf's corpse.

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Chapter 25

Today, I also practice hard, but as always I can't even sense the『Ma』in Magic power.

In the first place, what is Magic power?
Let's return to the starting point. I ask Nee-san to begin the lecture from the beginning.
Because the level of my Magic Professor – Profess has risen, I have not taken a lecture from Nee-san like this in quite a while.
Seeing my interest, a small smile forms on Nee-san's expressionless face as if she was waiting for these words.
I have been instructed to sit at the table while she cheerfully prepares.

Magic power is.
While being an energy circulating through the world, it's carried by everything aside from living creatures.
Humans interfere with wooden staves and rings made from metal and depending on the circumstances cause various phenomena.
Humans generally refer to this as『Magic』.

But if it's like this, then why existences like me, Nee-san and monsters can directly carry Magic power?
The premise to that question differs.
For example, how can a mineral that is used for bait emit a magic power?
How can a creature have the capabilities to Magic power on their body hair or scales?
In the first place, how can undead like me, a creature that died carry Magic power?

That way, for every species there's a different way to carry the Magic power.
These creatures in general terms are referred to as『Monsters』.
Naturally, the magic that monsters handle differs from the humans.
On the contrary, it could be said that every species have different Magic.
Hence, humans think of it as『Extrajudicial』and that it should be removed.
Magic is only ours skill, it is our advantage, Nee-san said.

By the way, what Nee-san is teaching me is one of the『Extrajudicial』ways, a technique used by Vampires.
Rather, she doesn't know anything else.
Because, Immortal – Undead is similar species to Immortal – Vampire, the theory behind the use of Magic should be the same.
Her race's Magic power is far superior in quality and quantity and in addition vampires have talent that I lack.
Acquiring Vampire's Magic must be like a dream within a dream.
When I mutter so, Nee-san nods in agreement.

Even though Undead is running on the Magic power itself, but because of inherently low intelligence they are unsuitable to use Magic in the first place.
Though I feel slightly tired from not obtaining results, I don't think I can be more motivated than I am now.
…… After all, do I have to use every trick in the book?
It seems that learning the human magic would be a way to go.
Originally, I was a being without any Magic at all. Millions of human beings use this Magic so it most likely the easiest to understand.
But the problem is, how should I learn it?
Nee-san does not understand Human letters.
However, there would be no stupid fool who would teach me Magic.
Do not forget that I was chased before.
For humans, monsters are enemies.

…… I have a feeling that the road to learning Magic is still far away.
Should I consider a different method of strengthening my detection?……

Incidentally, I was able to learn something new after Evolving.
As a matter of fact, this method is usable by all type of monsters, but the efficiency differs.
Others can't even compare to us, the Immortal class who store the Magic power directly in their bodies, which increases the Magic absorption efficiency to impressive levels.

If I wasn’t an Immortal, Evolving after few months wouldn’t be possible.
…… I see. Certainly, if every monster evolved at such pace, the world would be full of Demon Kings.
It seems the growth of individuals greatly differs, though it’s impossible to say for sure.

After Evolving, the Magic quality itself increased, while the Magic absorption efficiency decreased.

I vaguely suspect this.
Since I have become Freezing Immortal – Freezing Undead, I have hunted monsters in the labyrinth from time to time, but after confirming the Present Magic power, it increased only vaguely.
The current me is Rank 2. With the exception of Black Salamander, everything else in the labyrinth is Rank 1. Such monsters don’t provide enough Magic power at all.
However, five times the Magic power is needed for the next Evolution. However, the efficiency is only one-tenth of the previous rate.
It’s meaningless to hunt in the labyrinth. I don’t have a choice, but to continue hunting in the plains.
But…… I have to somehow avoid raising the interest of belligerent monsters……
It doesn’t seem like I will run out of worries.

Also, Nee-san, could you stop giving me information in such small amounts?
Eh? If you teach me all at once, it would be boring afterward?
Because of the hateful Profess, your screen time has decreased?
You will tell me the necessary things when the time is right, so look forward to it?
Therefore, that’s all for today…… Hey.

She zips her lips with a gesture.
…… What is this?

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Chapter 26

I was troubling Nee-san.
Well, she taught me really necessary things beforehand, and above all, I can't say that she doesn't take care of me.
…… Hey. More importantly, I'm currently in the middle of hunting. I shouldn't be lost in thoughts.
I jump down from large boulder after looking around.

What I was looking for on the large boulder was the Man-Eating Worm, Man Eater.
It can't attack me from the ground when I'm standing on a boulder.
It's a simple, but effective method.

I feel the gaze on me today too.
Rather, I feel like it gets stronger day by day.
Is this thanks to the strengthening of my detection ability?
Or the gaze itself became stronger?
I don't know which it is either…… but, if it's the latter then it's bad.

Who or why is that entity watching me is unknown.
However if, it finds an opportunity to attack me…… No.
That's not going to happen. I shake my head while thinking such.
If it wanted to surprise attack me, it would have already done so a long time ago.
Especially, I ascertain my prey when I attack, so I'm always attacking a suitable target.

Honestly, I'm used to attacking, but I'm not used to being attacked.
I'm paying attention, but I'm unguarded for a moment here and there.
I'm an amateur. My techniques are still unskilled.
I was not taken by surprise so far because I'm filling that gap with Life and Heat detection.
I think that it's also a result of luck aiding me.

…… Meeting Nee-san was lucky, making it this far without having an accident is also lucky.

My number one strengths are my nonexistent presence of Undead and my handsword that is sharper than edged tools.
However, narrowly escaping death all the time is most likely thanks to the『Good Luck』.
I want to acquire suitable abilities, while it is still accompanying me.

I was able to hunt three games today.
The time it took is approximately two hours.
I run around the plains in order to ensure to come across a designated target.
One in 40 minutes is sufficient performance.

I was almost discovered by a Pseudo-human.
A monster with the lower part of the body of a snake, a『Lamia』.
It's sprawling in the grass, searching for a prey.
It seems to be searching for prey with Heat detection after all. If I was few seconds slower to hide, I would be discovered.

Movements of Lamia who has characteristics of a snake is unexpectedly swift.
If I was discovered, just how hard would it be to get away?
…… Recently, I may have gotten too comfortable at hunting and became a little careless.
Although I was caught in Lesser Evil's trap just recently. I do not learn.
Let's reflect.

Because I had a bad feeling all of sudden while walking, I jump behind.
In an instant. The ground rises and ugly Earthworm jumps out of the underground.

Tsu, dangerous……!

If my reaction was one-second slower, I would be eaten.
Surprise and fear run through my whole body.

That instantly turns into frustration, I restore my collapsed posture, and this time, jump forward.
The Man Eater wiggles its body and tries to return underground.
I don't miss such a big opening and drive my handsword through its body.
The lump of fat gives a soft and tender response.
The Man Eater's head disconnected from its body and feebly fell to the ground.

That surprised me.
I remove the fluids stuck to my hand after looking at the non-responsive body.
I thought I was going to die.
No matter how you look at it, I would definitely die if that thing swallowed me.
Although I'm already dead.

But, still.
I'm still moving.
This isn't the first time something like that happened.
I'm experiencing the moment of life and death again and again.
And each time, I have survived by the skin of my teeth.
I'm amazed at the strength of my devil's luck.

…… Let's return.
Anger and fear don't last long in my chilled brain and heart.
Only emotions of wanting to work harder remain.
I'm tired. It's earlier than usually, but let's return.

When I return, I will probably go to Nee-san's room who is waiting for me at the entrance.
I will fix her bed hair and we will play together.
Let's go hunting again when she goes to sleep.
At that time…… I will surely struggle as usual.

On the way back.
I notice that the gaze suddenly vanishes again.

Just what on earth is this fellow's purpose?
I'm almost certain that it doesn't want to attack me.
It would be strange if that wasn't the case because I don't feel any thirst for

blood from the gaze.
But, if it’s not watching me for the purpose of surprise attacking me, then why?
Something, is it waiting for me to do something?
What is it? What is that fellow waiting for?

…… I don’t know.
『**Freezing Undead**』Himuro Takahina
101st Day.
Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 802/1621

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Chapter 27

——I run.
I drop my posture and run like some wild beast.
An ordinary person wouldn't be able to catch up to me.
I run through the plains in a straight line.
…… Where is it.
I use only my eyes without moving my head, always maintaining the same line of sight.
My Heat detection is extended to the maximum range I can perform while running, and I feel every heat within the range.
…… Where did you run to?
Today, I'm not worried only about the usual gaze.
No. I can't even afford to be bothered by the gaze.
I stop my legs to break with all my might and jump greatly.
That way, I floated several meters in the air, which allowed me to see as far as possible.
…… I can't see it.
That can't be.
My sight is good no matter how dark it is, and above all, it shouldn't be able to discover me in the middle of the night.

Today, I hunted as always.
In the middle of my hunt, I found a wounded Night Wolf.
My pocket watch fell out of my pocket during the hunt.
It briefly attracted my attention and the Night Wolf escaped.
…… If that was it, how good would that be?
I don't know what that fellow was thinking about, but he escaped with my pocket watch in his mouth.
I got it from Nee-san…… My important watch.

It's not something I can afford to lose.
I will definitely find it. If not, I will be too ashamed to show my face before Nee-san.

Where did that Night Wolf disappear to?
No matter how much I raised my speed, the opponent is a wolf.
I can't match its speed on foot.

But my body doesn't get tired at all.
If I keep chasing, I will be definitely able to catch up.
I'm certain it ran this way. It may hide in the grass and I just didn't see it.
I stop at once and expand the Heat detection range as far as possible.
…… More than 200 meters radius. Thanks to the increase in Magic power, my Heat detection range increased again.
I feel the heat of beasts.
The result is——Zero?
Give me a break. I certainly saw that fellow go this way.
Did I made a mistake or it changed its direction?
However, even if that was true that's not important.
What is important right now, is only the thief dog who stole my pocket watch.
If it didn't escape this way, then where?
I came across the location the Night Wolf escaped to.
If that fellow changed his direction here, did he escape to the right or to the left?

Let's think about it.
If I was a Night Wolf, how would I escape from someone who is stronger than me in every aspect, but speed?

I calculate the routes I would escape to and check them thoroughly one-by-one.
But, the results were not good.

It's only natural. Because I'm not used to tracking an opponent obstinately like that.
I hunt a prey whom I come across and move to the next target no matter if I succeed or fail.
I'm doing this such way.
My tracking technique is poor. I have never attempted to try it out.
…… However. I will absolutely not let that fellow escape from me.

That pocket watch is present I have received from Nee-san together with this butler suit.

That『Thing』is most important to me.
If I loose that, I wouldn't be able to apologize to Nee-san enough.

It has been three hours since I started searching.
It will be more difficult to search as the time passes.
When it comes to this, I will have to hunt every Night Wolf in the plains.
…… I started thinking such half seriously.
Koto
I hear something from behind.
As expected, I was too preoccupied with the pocket watch so I didn't pay attention, I quickly turn around.
However. Nothing was in the place I heard the sound from.
Then, what was the sound I heard just now<
Thinking such, I look around the vicinity.

The moment I lowered my eyes down to my feet, I couldn't believe my eyes.
Because the pocket watch I frantically looked for, fell there.
I pick it up before thinking about it.
After confirming whether it is damaged or not, I open the lid.
The time ticked away without suffering any damage.

While feeling relieved a doubt was raised at the same time.
Naturally, until a while ago, the watch was not there.
I remember the sound from a while ago.
That was most likely the sound of watch falling on the ground.
But, why?
It's impossible to think that the watch the Night Wolf ran away with would return on their own.
Did someone get it back?
Such thought flashes across my mind, however, who was it?
Nee-san? She should be still asleep, besides, she does not do things in such roundabout way.
If that's the case, then who——tsu?

Then, I noticed.
That gaze disappeared again.
Until a moment ago, it was watching me from somewhere.

No way, was that the doing of the gaze?
However, I don’t understand the reason for doing that.
The purpose of watching me, everything.

…… It’s no use.
Because I don’t want to worry about it that much, let’s consult Nee-san about it.
First, I must return to the labyrinth. Today, I’m considerably later than usual.
Let’s hurry. Although Nee-san told me before that she likes waiting.
I…… if anything, hate waiting or being late.

A young Raven Harpy is flying high in the sky with a Night Wolf’s head caught in her feet, watching Takahina.
Once she confirms that Takahina returned to the labyrinth, she nods in satisfaction.。
She then flies away to her nest.

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Chapter 28

I tell Nee-san about the gaze.
I tell her that when I enter the plains, I have the feeling of being observed.
I don't know where or by whom I am watched.
However, I don't feel any hostility, so there was no real harm.
When I return to the labyrinth, the gaze instantly vanishes.

I find it creepy.
In the beginning, I looked for the gaze desperately.
…… However, I couldn't find anything with my detection abilities.
Because the gaze didn't do anything, I recently put my thoughts about it aside.

However, yesterday.
When a Night Wolf stole my pocket watch and I was searching for it wholeheartedly.
Before I noticed, the pocket watch fell to my feet.
If my hunch is correct, then it was the gaze that dropped the pocket watch.
However, I don't understand neither the reason nor the method.
And, the most important thing…… The other side finally started approaching me.
With the present situation not being stagnant anymore, the gaze's next move will probably come soon.
I tell Nee-san what's on my mind.

However, Nee-san tells me that she doesn't know well what's happening either.
Well, I should have expected this. In the first place, the information is too abstract and this is her holiday villa.
Because she isn't interested in the ecosystem of monsters in the plains, she doesn't know that much.
Nee-san's presence detection is poor and the number of foolish monsters that want to pick a fight with her is almost non-existent.
Unlike monsters in the labyrinth, there are many intelligent monsters outside.
Most of those guys will surely not get even close to Nee-san.
In reality, Nee-san doesn't even know half of the plains' monsters that I know.

In other words, being born as an overwhelmingly strong Vampire had an adverse effect on Nee-san.

It may be possible find the gaze using her bats.
I thought so for a moment, but that would require Nee-san to stand outside.
However, if I am together with this person, the gaze would most likely not appear.
It would be meaningless.
…… Then, I must find it somehow on my own after all.

This is bad, I can't think of a good plan.
I'm trying to figure something out.
Suddenly, Nee-san rocks her neck with her arms folded.

…… Ah.

She leaks out a small voice.

I walk outside like always.
What is not as always, is that 15 bats are flying around me.

These are fragments that Nee-san lent me in order to find the gaze.
Normally, all the obtained information would go to Nee-san.
However, she temporarily transferred the authority to me. That way, the information will go to me.
…… Therefore, I would like you to tell me such things sooner.
When I heard her say this, I unintentionally spilled such words from my mouth.
She put her hands on her ears and started saying「I can't hear you, I can't hear you」.

However, this way, I can look for the gaze.
Because of the magic in my body, I can't use more bats, but this should be enough.
I walk around the plains as usual, while waiting for the feeling of being observed.

When the feeling appears, the bats will seize the culprit.

It has been roughly a month since being observed, but that will come to an end today.
I don’t know who the opponent is, but…… I will definitely drag you out.

…… It’s here.
It turned towards me, I can feel it clearly.
But, strangely, the gaze feels somewhat hostile.
But, what is it? It’s slightly different from the usual.
As if swaying, as if it’s strength is flickering.
If I had to express it, it seems as if perplexed.
However, why does the gaze seems to be perplexed?
I think about it a little.
I recognize the bats flying around me as the cause.
…… Indeed. Certainly different from the usual state.
It has observed me for about a month, did it get accustomed to me?
Therefore, it’s puzzled over the change.
I can find it like this. I just have to look for monsters in the surroundings with suspicious behavior.

I let all bats out at once with such thoughts.
Suddenly, a response within the range of Heat detection.
The position, sky. It looks over here from straight above.
From the Heat detection, I can tell that the gaze is in a strong state of anxiety and confusion.

Is this fellow the gaze?
I see…… Were you observing me from above?
The eyesight of bird-type monster is not ordinary. They can clearly see even from 1km distance.
But, what is this?
This fellow didn’t show any movement until just yesterday when it dropped the pocket watch. There were no other movements so why now?

While thinking so, the Heat detection responds.

Its temperature rises with the intention of an attack.
This is bad…… are you doing it?
This fellow didn’t show its purpose until now, but am I the prey after all?
The size is little smaller than me.
I ready my handsword, ready to counterattack.
I disperse all the borrowed bats in order to avoid damage.
Then.

Sudden deceleration.
The opponent’s temperature distorts, its intention to attack disappears, and feelings of perplexment rise instead.
What, I don’t have time to think.
Because my timing is fatally out of sync., I give up all my thoughts and collide with the heat.
…… However, the expected impact is lighter than I thought.
I wasn’t able to attack, but I successfully caught the heat.

I open my eyes and turn towards the gaze.
The first thing I see is a pair of black eyes.
I can feel a soft feeling through my dull sense of touch.

Almost as if I was embracing, one feathered Raven Harpy is settled in my arms.

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Chapter 29

The conclusion is.
The one who brought me back the pocket watch from the Night Wolf and the gaze observing me is this Raven Harpy.
Because this child doesn't understand my and Nee-san's language well, I had a little trouble conversing.

On the first day, I went to the plains.
She mistook me for a human, attacked me and was defeated.
What normally happens after that is that she would be killed or depending on the situation, violated.
However, I didn't do neither.
Maa, it's not that I didn't want to kill her, I simply couldn't. And I don't have raping for a hobby.
In the first place, I'm dead. The sexual desire within me doesn't even exist.
I have overlooked this child because I simply wanted to avoid her.
I don't want to kill beings similar to human, it was because of such selfish reason.

This child then found me several days later.
It seems that I just finished hunting.
Because she didn't know that I'm an Undead, she thought it was very strange that I was leaving a hunted prey as it is without eating it.
She happily ate it.
Although harpies can fly, they are not strong enough to find food every day.
If she was lucky, she would get to eat the rotting meat of games of other monsters.
She told me with a difficult expression that it was a while since she ate a fresh meat.

Since then, she started following me around.
She doesn't know about Evolution so she was perplexed about my real intentions, but she was happy that she could get fresh meat daily.
Certainly, if you look closely, you can see that her complexion is better than before.

With good nutrition income, the body that was once only bones and skin started showing signs of femininity.
I think I understand now.
Did you watch me in order to secure food?
I leave all hunted prey as it is. If I think about it, it must have been a hard to come fortune for this child.
Because both me and Nee-san don't need to eat, I did not notice such a simple thing.
Anyway, this child who started following me because of food, started feeling something like a『Gratitude』towards me.

Then, one day, I was robbed of my belongings by a Night Wolf.
From above, she could see that I was really anxious, she could easily understand how important that thing was to me.
Flying in the sky with the terrific eyesight she was born with, she immediately found the Night Wolf and thanks to it being injured, she was able to successfully bring it down.
And in order not to get discovered, she delivered the pocket watch to me from the skies.

However, to not get scratched from that height, the pocket watch would need to be really lucky.
When I ask her how she did it, she stands on the ground and gently flaps her wings once.
Instantly, a small whirlwind appears out of nowhere.
…… I see, she delivered it with this.
Although I didn't know about her gratitude, she was able to return the favor at least a little this way.
She says joyfully.

And, this time.
When she started following me as always, she found me surrounded by bats.
She misunderstood that I was being attacked, and went to my rescue immediately.
However, right when she was ready to kick the bats, they scattered to all sides,

so she stopped her attack and decelerated.
But the space she had left for deceleration was too small and she collided with me.
I caught her like that, and we came into unexpected second contact…… That's how it is.
I troubled Nee-san to lend me her bats yet I wasn't able to use them.
However, this child wouldn't come out if it weren't for the bats so…… it doesn't matter.
I ask her why did she not appear on her own.
It seems she wouldn't know what to say once we met.
…… If I was in a reverse situation, certainly I wouldn't know too.

About an hour passed since I started listening to her story.
Maa, it took some time, but I finally know the reason behind this child's observing.
You can say that load has been taken from my mind.

After finishing the talk, the harpy suddenly spreads her wings and prostrates on the ground.
This is an act of『Obedience』for flying beings like her.

…… I, useful, be. Therefore, toget, her.

The Harpy girl eagerly appeals.
I'm at a loss.
The feelings of gratitude she feels towards me are merely the result of my selfishness.
If I don't hunt for Magic power like this, I will remain a corpse.
It's not like I left the carcasses, particularly for this girl.
In the first place, she is someone I tried to kill.
She should resent me, not feel gratitude towards me.

However, she didn't listen.
I later became aware that Harpy's feelings run deep, and sometimes they refer the beings they feel gratitude towards to as『Master』.

At this time, her instincts already engraved me as her Master.
In the end, I wasn’t able to come up with a good way to send her away, so I allowed her to follow me.

…… But, when I see her figure joyfully walking behind me, oh well, is what I think.
I notice that wry smile floated on my face and scratch my head while sighing.

Now then…… How am I going to explain this to Nee-san?

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Chapter 30

I'm confronted by a Sword Lion in the plains.
A lion with rapier-like thorns on its mane roars, exposing its fangs.
…… The odds are against me if confronting it head on.

However, that…… would be only if I was alone.
I stoop down and start running towards it without hesitation.
I intercept the Sword Lion after confirming its movement.

A small whirlwind coiled around its face.
It's a slightly stronger gentle breeze that can't leave a satisfying wound.
However, it blows the soil and sand into Sword Lion's eyes, rendering them useless for a moment.
The Lion is surprised at the sudden incident and stops its movement.

I stab towards the desperate monster's brow.
Without altering my aim, I use the handsword for a certain kill.
The Sword Lion falls down without agony.
That body…… will never get up again.

When the battle ends, one Raven Harpy descends behind me from above.
When I turn back my head, a black pair of eyes looks up to me from below.
It looks at me as if saying praise me, praise me. I smile wryly.

I gently pat this child's, 『Misha』's head.

That day, I brought back a Harpy with me to the labyrinth.
And, I wanted to explain to Nee-san, but…… she didn't want to talk with me.
…… It was the first time I saw Nee-san pupils…… become like mine.
I was really saved that she cheered up after three hours of hair caressing, nail clipping and letting her lie on my lap.

Anyway, somehow Nee-san was willing to『Keep』this child——My expression was little resistant, but Nee-san stubbornly overlooked it——After receiving permission, we went hunting together.

Compared to me who relies on Heat detection, she, the Harpy can see 2km ahead.
Her flight speed is also high, she is ideal for locating a prey.

However, her offensive power is overwhelmingly lacking, so she has difficulty hunting the monsters directly.
Hence, until now, she was able to eat only half-eaten rotting corpses.
The little whirlwind she creates using a wind magic, is not suitable to fight.
It can distract the enemy for several seconds, but…… asking her to defeat it in that time is impossible.

However, her supporting abilities are considerably high.
An ability which allows her to locate a prey without being discovered.
Although the little whirlwind can't be used as an offensive ability, it's certainly effective for blinding the opponent.
Both are abilities which I need a lot, and above all, she listens to me well.
As for hunting partners goes, she is the most excellent.
…… Although Nee-san's bad mood is slightly troublesome.

My efficiency rises significantly when hunting with Misha.
Not mentioning that I can find the prey easily, I am now able to hunt two more monsters I couldn't before.
Sword Lion, Violent Serpent.
I am able to take on monsters I couldn't when I was alone with Misha's follow-up.
The time hunting didn't change, but the Magic power obtained raised by several times.
The speed at which I'm obtaining the Magic power is considerably high even among Immortals.

I pat Misha's head again when seeing her cutting the Sword Lion's meat.
Thanks to her, I will be able to Evolve much earlier than I expected.
…… This time, I will obtain it. A warm living body.
If that happens, I will be able to leave this Dark zone.

Mou, I haven’t seen the sunlight for so long.
Although I certainly don’t dislike this red moon rising over the plains.
Anyway, I just want to see the sun.

My sleeve is suddenly pulled.
I look and see Misha looking at me while tilting her head.
…… It seems my expression was a bit grim. I have made her worry about me.
No problem. This body can’t feel pain after all.
I pat her head again after saying so.
A smile floats on my face after seeing Misha close her eyes in satisfaction.

I wait for Misha to finish her meal.
Then, after continuing hunting for a while, I confirm the time.
…… It’s time to return.
Since she『Kept』…… this child, her temper became bad.
If I don’t return early and flatter her, she will sulk.

We are returning, I tell Misha.
I turn on my heels and return to the labyrinth.
I can hear light footsteps following behind me.
…… I am now completely used to having someone walking behind me.
I walk slightly slower than when I walk alone.

『**Freezing Undead**』Himuro Takahina
130th Day.
Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 1388/1621

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Chapter 31

I don’t go outside on the rainy days.
Because Nee-san is still sound asleep in her room and I can’t go outside to hunt, I spend my time walking around the labyrinth.
…… I feel like I always don’t know what to do on rainy days.

I decided to play with Misha until Nee-san wakes up.
There are no problems regarding her meals. I hunted a Black Salamander I came across.
It seems the meat behind the hardy scales is pretty delicious.
…… Although eating at the moment is unnecessary, I may be able to eat after the next Evolution.
Because I can’t taste anything, it’s meaningless to eat right now.

I ask Misha if there’s something she wants to do.
After thinking for a while…… She says she wants me to comb her hair.
She tells me that she saw me combing Nee-san’s hair and she wanted to try it too since then.
I don’t really mind. I have a lot of free time after all.

I let Misha sit on the rubble I always sit on and go behind her.
I take out the comb I started recently carrying from my pocket and carefully start combing Misha’s hair.
It’s different from Nee-san’s wavy, silky hair. Misha’s hair is black and feels like feathers on touch.
Because it’s the same hair color I once had, I comb very carefully while feeling nostalgic.
Although I would sometimes tickle her, she is obediently enduring it.

The hair is reaching only up to her shoulders, so it doesn’t take long to finish.
Soon, her hair is neatly combed.
Misha timidly raises her arms…… she extends her wings my way.
Grooming…… No, it seems she wants me to also fix her feathers.
…… How do you do that?
After thinking it over, I come to a conclusion that doing it with a comb would be

difficult, therefore, I caress her feathers softly with my hands.
It seems I'm tickling her because her shoulders tremble.
But, it seems that I'm doing it right.
While I was hesitant at first, I continue slowly caressing her feathers.

After successfully fixing her feathers, I cut the Black Salamander meat and give it to Misha since she seemed hungry.
Seeing her biting the meat, a smile floats on my face unconsciously.

Living…… it looks hectic.

You eat, you sleep.
If you don't eat, you suffer from starving.
If you don't sleep, soon you won't be able to move because of the accumulated fatigue.
Living is that kind of stuff.
Eating is not necessary for me and Nee-san, and sleeping is also not required.
Nee-san sleeps every day, because of Vampire's preferred time of activity.
Certain Immortals demand the feeling of satisfaction sleeping provides.
For us Immortals, eating and sleeping is only such thing.

In contrast, why is living so inconvenient?
Why does living restrict you so much?
It's not even possible to live without breathing consistently.
…… Really, how miserable.

But, therefore, it shines so much.
Certainly Immortals are free.
If the body is not destroyed, one can live forever.
However, it's cold.
It's helplessly cold.
Not only the body. Even the mind.
Being with her, with Misha, I finally understood.

We are candles.
The body is the candle, and the fire is the life.

It will eventually burn out.
However, that is alright.
What is the meaning of a candle without fire?
It's just an inferior ornament.
Rather than being an ornament, I want to burn until I disappear.
I want a fire that would warm up this cold wax body.
I don't need a body that can live eternally if I can't do anything with it.
Just a moment is enough.
I——I want a fire that will lit this body.

After Misha became full, she curled up on the floor and started sleeping.
I laugh at such bewildering behaviour.
…… Really. Living seems to be so hectic.
How warm.
In order to not let her catch a cold, I take off my coat and put it gently over her not to wake her up.

There's still some time until Nee-san wakes up.
So until then, I will look over this child who desperately struggles to live.。
I will work hard to obtain a warm body just like this child.

For us Immortals, living like Misha seems way too difficult.
I kept watching her sleep without getting tired.

…… Right.
After all, I'm only a corpse.
Just how fragile the living are?
Just how easy it is for life to crumble and disappear?
To hold on that and not lose it is important.
If it was me from the past, I would understand.
I did not understand. No, I simply forgot.
Life…… living things——

——If you poke it/them a little, it easily breaks.

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Chapter 32

A red moon is floating as always in the center of the starless sky.
Caught in a thin veil of clouds, it looks magically beautiful.

…… I wonder why…… am I looking up at the moon?

Today's memories are awfully vague.
My body which should not feel neither the pain nor fatigue feels too heavy.
I'm having trouble even with the slightest movements.

I quietly lower my sight.
There is a scourge of flesh and blood scattered all over the surroundings.
There are more than 20 monsters exposing their horrid corpses.
Night Wolf, Tsuchigumo, Sword Lion, Violent Serpent, Man-Eating Worm.
That's not all. Even a Werecat, Werewolf, Lamia and Dragonewt.
More than half of the species living in the plains were destroyed, barely keeping their original appearance.

…… Why…… Why did it become like this?
This cruel scene can't be described in words.
This is a scene of a massacre.
Who, what did this?
Even the strongest monster in the Red Rouge Plains I know, the Dragonewt was slaughtered.
Was something chased out of the Mountain Range of Dusk and came here?
Or was it a deed of some powerful monster I'm not aware of?
Just what happened here——

…… tsu?

I raise my foot trying to walk away while in thoughts.

Toes of my foot lightly kick something.
I pull out my foot and try to look down on reflex.

That moment——My body shivers.

Don’t look. You must not see it.
Such cry resounds in the deepest parts of my heart.
A chill, far beyond the cold.
The hollow memories concealed in a haze, give me the highest possible warning.
Don’t look, don’t look, the voice keeps yelling at me.

However, I shake my head and brush off that voice.
Then, like a sluggish, rusty doll, I look down with awkward movements.
I face down.

At first, I couldn’t understand.
No. My heart just refused to understand.

A badly bruised body.
If you look closely, I look the same way, but that is inconsequential.
The heat that should originally be there, can’t be felt anymore.
The closed eyelids won’t ever open again.
That’s right, Magic Profess conveyed it to me.

As if the erosion in my head starts disappearing, I gradually remember.
The smiling face that bloomed whenever patted by my hand.
Black wings with the highest quality feathers that retained their unique gloss.
Limbs which regained their femininity thanks to the good nutrition.
All of it, covered in own blood…… robbed of the radiance of life.

Always walking behind me, looking up to me, the Harpy girl, Misha.
That girl, her appearances are completely changed.
She lies…… at my feet.

…… Right.
We were hunting as always.
We had a bad luck during the middle of a fight.
The belligerent Pseudo-humans looking for me felt the presence of a battle and came.
Before I was able to escape, other monsters heard the commotion and made an appearance.

I was trying to somehow escape.
However, I was surrounded and attacked at once.

But, Misha.
Unlike me, an Immortal who won't die unless the head is separated from the body.
She, a mortal who will die after losing blood, protected me.
One of the attacks she received, pierced through her heart.
Then, even without being able to say her last words.
Misha…… died.

I have killed.
I have slaughtered those who killed her.
Pseudo-humans, monsters, everything.
From anger and resentment.
Pseudo-humans which I was avoiding, I have murdered them all.
I have asked who could do such a thing?
What I was talking about…… Wasn't this my own work?

After remembering everything, I crumble down on the ground from the shock.
And hold Misha's body in my arms.
The soft feathers I was fond of are covered in blood…… her body already lost the warmth.

Again.
…… Gone, again.
Lost before me again.
Just like before…… it's the same as when I was alive.

I had a very important person.
That child died before my eyes just like Misha.
And again, I lost someone.
A person important to me.
An existence, I sincerely longed to be with.

Drip.
A drop falls on Misha's worn-out face.
I immediately think that it's going to rain.
But then I notice, that these are actually my tears.

Tears…… even though I'm a corpse?
Right after my question, the pain runs through my whole body.
An intense pain I once felt before.
…… I'm not getting any information from Profess.
But, the cause is obvious.

…… Evolution, huh?

A pain fierce enough to lose my consciousness.
However, a thing like this.
In comparison with a pain of losing Misha who won't wake up anymore.

I hug her body which became cold.
While doing so, my tears fall down endlessly.
The pain from deep sorrow causes me to feel like my heart is being pierced by countless swords.
She won't come back even if I avenge her.
Although it's already too late, I understand this fact.

For the first time since I died…… I scream from sorrow.

『**Freezing Undead**』Himuro Takahina
138th Day.
Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 1659/1621

※Magic Power Containment Limit exceeded. Starting the Evolution.
※A fixed amount of high-quality Magic power acquired. Skipping from Rank 2 to Rank 4.
※Due to the Evolution, part of the lost memories was successfully restored.

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The Angel Vows in Front of the Raven's Grave

Undead Seeks Warmth – The Angel Vows in Front of the Raven's Grave

by Shinsori · Published June 22, 2016 · Updated June 25, 2016

This Chapter is sponsored by **William G.**

Thank you very much for your feels.

In front of the Red Rouge Plains.
There is a lone figure standing before a small hill.

「……」

With both hands in his pockets, his cold silver hair is fluttering above his shoulders.
That youth——Himuro Takahina turns towards the brand new gravestone.

His knees bend, and he kneels before the grave.
He pulls out his hands from the pockets and puts them in front of his face.

「Misha……」

Takahina closes his eyes while calling out the name of the sleeping girl.
In order to pray and wish.
He talks while remaining motionless.

「…… Thanks to you, I didn't break that day. Thank you」

He whispers his gratitude.
Even thousands of apologies wouldn't be enough towards the girl Takahina was so proud of.
While thinking so, he continued to talk.

「…… I wasn't able to make you into an Undead, turning you into my follower. I didn't want to give you this coldness」

Misha could become an Undead just like me.

She would become my follower.
That way, we could be together again.

However, once that happened, Misha would no longer be Misha.
…… I surely wouldn’t be able to bear such a thing.
Therefore, I didn’t do it.
I wished for her to live until the end.
Therefore, for now, please sleep peacefully.
Takahina prays, wishing such.

[Continue reading!]

Share

Idle talk 3 – The Name's Bow Princess

In Shardia on a certain main road.
It's a sunny day.

「U, uwaaaaaaa!」

A shriek of agony resounds under this cloudless sky.
The surrounding area is already dyed in blood.

Aooooon!!

More than two meters large wolf howls in delight after bringing down a prey.
Then, many wolves of the similar size flock around a carriage.
This wolf is called an Army Wolf. They wolves who form a pack and hunt together.
It's a B class monster which can take down several trained soldiers.
They who annihilated 10 mercenaries hired by the merchants in about five minutes, now surrounded the frightened merchants, not leaving them with a chance to escape.

「I, it's over……」

One of the merchants mutters.
One of the Army wolves leaps towards the merchant with the best body physique.
That moment.

Thunk!

The moment the wolf opened its drooling mouth, a jet-black arrow flies from somewhere and pierces the wolf's forehead.
Dying in the air, the wolf's body falls down to the ground in a parabola.
Merchants stare in wonder at the unexpected turn of events.
It's the same on the side of the wolves, but being monsters with bright minds, they start vigilantly looking around for the person who shot the arrow.
But, before they could react, two more arrows flew their way.
The same arrows cutting through the wind shot two more wolves to death.

Finally, wolves were able to find the hindrance who disturbed their hunt.

「Because I heard a shriek and a howl I came to take a look…… what a terrible thing」

A lone girl with brown hair tied up behind showed her appearance.
Charming slant eyes, undisputedly beautiful facial features, simple, but lovely attire.
Although she holds a Shortbow in her hand, the two quivers of different size on her back tell of the probable existence of a Longbow.
The girl exudes an atmosphere of an expert.
Sensing that, the Army wolves change the target from the merchants to this girl who killed their three comrades in a surprise attack.
There are 15 of them. It would be a very dangerous situation even for an R rank adventurer.

「…… Fufu」

However, that girl shows her teeth while laughing.
Immediately after that, she amazingly quickly shoots three arrows.
Each of the arrows flew in a different direction and easily went through three Army wolves.
One of the wolves was shot right in the middle of its brow and the second one had his heart pierced. The third wolf was shot in a shoulder, barely escaping with his life, but in few seconds, it collapsed on the ground while blowing bubbles from its mouth.
The other wolves immediately noticed with their noses that the arrow is covered in poison.
The wolf alpha howls loudly and the wolves disperse.
The movements of their considerably large bodies were unexpectedly swift and light.
The Army Wolves surround the girl.
But.

「They seem to stop……」

Shuka!

The girl easily flies out of the encirclement and shoots an arrow through one

wolf’s brow again.
The merchants and even the wolves were dumbfounded by the girl’s godlike bow technique.
She takes an arrow from the quiver, loads it in the bow, she then pulls the string, aims, and releases.
The girl was able to accomplish this series of movements only in a few seconds.
The slaughtered mercenaries from before couldn’t even compare with such dexterity.

Aooooooooon!!

However, be it a pride of a strong being or the pride of a wolf.
The wolf leader is unable to admit to the fact that he has been driven into a corner.
After seeing their leader fall to the girl’s arrows, the remaining five Army Wolves ran away.

After the menace ran away, the startled merchants ran up to the girl.

「T, thank you very much! Thanks to you, we were saved!!」
「Really! Really thank you very much!」

Being thanked by men in tears, the girl turned away in embarrassment.

「…… There’s no need to thank me…… Besides, I wasn’t able to save the mercenareies」

Seeing the girl looking at the disastrous scene, the merchants lowered their heads.
Escorting the merchants is a long-term job.
They formed friendly relationships with half of the dead mercenaries after traveling together for so long.

「…… We can’t leave them like that, I will help you bury them」
「No…… The least we can do is to carefully bury them with our own hands」
「…… I see」

She looks at the backs of merchants who burying the corpses of the

mercenaries.

「…… Comrades…… huh」

She mutters sorrowly and sighs.
The girl turns on her heels.

「…… Well then, goodbye. It's only a few hours to the city with the carriage and other monsters will stay away because of the Army Wolves scent」
「Eh…… ah, please wait a second! At least, let us thank you somehow!」
「There's no need to since I only happened to pass by. If you can afford it you should visit the families of the deceased mercenaries」

The girls wave her hand and depart.
One of the merchants cried out loudly.

「T, then, at least your name!」
「Un? Let's see, will you let me go if I tell you that I don't have a name?」
「Please, tell us! Not knowing the name of our life saver will bring shame to us as merchants!」
「Shame? So exaggerated…… Well, the name should be alright」

The girl turns with slightly angry expression at the wryly smiling merchants.

「I am Merlin, Merlin Macherey. Your average adventurer searching for someone. Well then, this time, it's a goodbye」

That girl——Merlin says and turns on her heels again.
She gets off the main road and disappears into the thick forest.

After this, in a while.
Rumors about certain Archer start spreading.
It said that she can shot 10 arrows with her Shortbow in a blink of an eye.
That she can shoot her Longbow across two mountains with pin-point accuracy.
Certainly, godlike archery skills with arrows comparable to Magic bullets.
Her name is, Merlin Macherey.

Her nickname——『**Bow Princess**』

Chapter 33

Shardia in the East.
Volthaizen in the West.
And Mashenoisas in the North.

This world…… This continent, Baveron is divided mainly by these three countries.
The『Red Rouge Plains』and『Mountain Range of Dusk』is a territory belonging to one of those countries…… Shardia.
This place is located at the most eastern part of this eastern country.
Hence, it is said that after crossing the Mountain range it is possible to see the end of the world.

However, I don't have the necessary power to cross the Mountain range yet.
Thanks to the effect of eating Nee-san's hair, I was able to Rank Skip from Rank 2 to Rank four and became an Undead Ice Angel.
It's a mixture of an Immortal class and Angel class.
It's rareness exceeds that of a Vampire.
Among monsters of the same Rank 4, it's ability is top rank.
The best of the adventurers and the Imperial Knights of the three countries are able to match against Rank 5 monsters…… I can roughly understand their strength.

Even after obtaining such power, I'm unable to cross the Mountain range.
The reason for that is…… because all the monsters residing in the Mountain Range of Dusk are Rank 6 and above.

The number of monsters of each rank decreases the higher their rank is.
And the number of Rank 6 and above monsters living in this Mountain Range exceeds the number of Rank 6 and above monsters living all over the world.
A lot of Magic power is manufactured at night and gathers in one place, drawing all the strong monsters in.
Therefore, humans are able to thrive even without being able to defeat high-rank monsters.
Powerful monsters of Demon King class are not interested in humans in the first

place.

I strayed from my talk.
Although I'm interested in the end of the world, but I don't think I want to see it that much after assuming the high risk it would take.
Therefore, I will pass on crossing the Mountain range.
The route which I can take is to go around Shardia and search for a resurrection method.
Then, I turn towards West and face the Magic Country Volthaizen.
Or should I aim for the country in the North, Mashenoisas which designated a hero of that time as their forefather?
I have three choices.

Nee-san tells me that it would be better to stay away from Mashenoisas.
Not sure if it's the truth or a lie, but apparently 1000 years ago, their founder a hero, defeated a Demon King, and since then they are awfully hostile towards monsters.
Certainly, by looking for hero's heritage I may find what I'm looking for, but…… it certainly sounds troublesome.

If that's the case, it's either to stay in Shardia or head towards Volthaizen.
I ask Nee-san for her suggestion.

It seems that she has another residence, or I should rather say a castle located in Shardia.
She suggests that I should make it my base and thoroughly look around the country.

Certainly, a base would be nice to have. A place where I can gather and record information is necessary.
After thinking for a while, I decided to stay in Shardia just as Nee-san suggested.
In the first place, this was too sudden. I should look thoroughly one-by-one.
I will have to visit the other countries soon…… but, now is not the right time.
What I have to do, what I'm aiming to do is naturally a taboo in every province.
Therefore, a vast information gathering is necessary.

The revival of the dead.
In the case of the living, every person thought about it at least once.

At the same time, many challengers aspire to get hold of it.
A miracle or a curse, a god’s gift or the works of a demon. It can be considered both.
That is a『Magic tool』.
Items of various materials containing different types of magic.
Their rarity value is so high, you will hardly come across one.
But as long as there’s a possibility, I have no choice, but to try.

I can’t consider it as a gleam of hope, but as the faintest, skinniest hope instead.
However, I have decided to do it.
With these cowardly hands that can’t take away a life anymore.
I will pick a fight with this world’s law of the jungle.
I have made a decision.
…… Therefore, I must get much stronger.
In order to stick to my own selfishness.
I, who can’t kill, in order to not break anything.

Normally, I would have to kill other monsters in order to get stronger.
That is the principle of life for monsters.
In order to escape from that yoke, one must resign oneself and become strong.
Normally, huh.

One, just one.
There is a way to increase Magic power without killing.
No. You can’t call it a way, but an underhanded trick.
I already obtained the means. By Evolving.
I can’t control it to a satisfactory level yet, but I have no other way.

I’m wielding a single weapon that won’t kill anything.
A weapon that can’t kill…… just a mere, single, slender sword.

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Chapter 34

[] [Toc]

Nothing

[] [Toc]